

C H R Y S A L :
O R, T H E
Adventures of a Guinea.

Wherein are exhibited
VIEWS of several striking Scenes,
W I T H

Curious and interesting ANECDOTES of the
most Noted Persons in every Rank of
Life, whose Hands it passed through,

I N
A M E R I C A, E N G L A N D, H O L L A N D,
G E R M A N Y *and* P O R T U G A L.

-----Hold the Mirror up to Nature,
To shew Vice its own Image, Virtue her own Likeness,
And the very Age and Body of the Times
His Form and Pressure. SHAKESPEAR.

Qui capit, ille facit.

By an A D E P T.

V O L. I.

D U B L I N :
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Smock-Alley. M.DCC.LX.





TO THE
RIGHT HONOURABLE
WILLIAM PITT, Esq;
©c. ©c. ©c.

SIR,

THE Publisher of these papers is sensible, that the time devoted to the care of nations, is too valuable to be spared to the perusal of them, yet he should

A 2

think

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think himself guilty of a breach of the general gratitude, which, at this time, swells every honest heart, in *Britain*, if he omitted to lay at your feet, a work, in which every occasion of displaying the blessings of a good administration appears to have been sought with pleasure, and dwelt upon with judgment.

The genius of my author was evidently so averse to adulation, that it would be doing him, the severest injustice, to join any thing to his work, which even envy could possibly pervert to such a motive, by insinuating, that the pictures he draws, in many places, of national good conduct, and the happy state of
it,

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it, are a panegyrick on present, not a representation of imaginary scenes.

A sense of this precludes me from the pleasure of illustrating his remarks with particular instances ; but in return for that painful self-denial, I must be indulged in a profession of the joy, with which I (as must every *Briton* whose heart feels for his country) congratulate myself, on my happy fate, in living under an administration, in which the flights of imagination of a visionary recluse, dead so many years ago, may be taken for a relation of the real events of the present times.

Here my address to Mr. PITT must stop ! But nothing

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can ever stop my prayers to Heaven for the preservation and happiness of a life, on whose labours, the welfare, not only of this mighty empire, but also of the greater part of *Europe*, do now so eminently depend.

A Briton.

P R E-



P R E F A C E,

By the PUBLISHER.

TO acquit myself of the suspicion of presuming to aim at particular characters, in the following work, should any fancied likeness be thought to direct an application ; as well as to do justice to the real author of it, I think it my duty to make known the manner by which it happened to come into my hands.

As I was walking one evening, last summer, along *White Chapel*, I was obliged to take shelter from a shower of rain, in a cottage near the Turnpike. The family were at Breakfast, at their tea, and as the rain continued, I had leisure to reflect on the advantages of commerce, which thus in a manner joins the opposite extremities of the earth, by bringing their products together: at the same time, that the variety in the equipage of the tea-table, or indeed stool, on which *there was nothing of a piece*, suggested a just ridicule on the vanity of luxury.

This last reflection was extended to all the pursuits of man, on the sight of a piece of written paper, that served instead of a plate, to hold their butter, — ‘Who knows (thought I) but the
‘ writer of this, bestowed time and care
‘ upon it, and promised himself both
‘ profit and fame, in reward of his labour?’

This thought prompted curiosity to look at the paper, which, by this time, was scraped quite clean. I therefore, after a few words of conversation, to
in-

introduce my request, desired leave to see it, which was readily granted, when I was surprized to find my conjectures, as I imagined, confirmed, by its appearing to be part of some regular work.

Curiosity had now a stronger motive, than idle gratification! I asked where they had got that paper; and on their telling me, at the chandler's shop next door, though this discouraged me a good deal, I resolved to pursue my enquiry, and went to the shop, as if for some snuff, which, as I expected, was given me on a piece of the same paper.

The rain still giving me a pretence for delaying there, I entered into discourse with the woman, and among other idle questions, asked her where she usually got paper to wrap her wares in, to which she answered, ' Sometimes
' from the public offices, and sometimes
' from the booksellers and printers; and
' when she was disappointed at those
' places, she was forced to buy brown
' paper, which was much dearer;
' though at present, she made use of
' some old stuff, that had lain a great
' while, lumbering her garret, having

x P R E F A C E.

‘longed to a lodger of her mother’s,
‘who died many years ago.’

I then changed the discourse, for fear she should perceive my design; but presently seeing her going to tear more, for somebody else that came in, I could not forbear any longer, but offered her brown paper for all the written paper she had, *as that was most proper for some work I designed*, which she readily agreed to, and sold me her whole stock for eighteen-pence.

This adventure put an end to my walk, so I took the first coach that went by, and hurried home to examine my purchase, which I found to consist of a number of fragments, upon various subjects, whether originally left unfinished, or torn thus in the chandler’s shop, it was impossible to say: and among the rest, the following work, which seemed to have undergone a different, though not much better fate, being blotted in many places, often paragraphs, and sometimes whole pages being erased; and what was worst, this havock was made in the most curious and entertaining part of the whole, the
philosophy

philosophy of the nature and agency of spirits.

The oddity of this collection made me resolve to try if I could learn any thing of the author, from the woman of the shop, where I had made my purchase; accordingly I called upon her, one evening, as if merely by accident, and sending for a pint of wine, to set her tongue a going, I no sooner hinted my desire, than she directly gave me the following account, which I shall repeat as nearly as possible, in her own words, shortening it only of expletive exclamations and repetitions.

‘ My father (said she) dying young,
 ‘ and leaving his family but poorly, my
 ‘ mother took this shop to help her to
 ‘ bring up three children, of whom I
 ‘ the eldest, was but five-years old. The
 ‘ times being hard, she was obliged to
 ‘ make every honest shift, and there-
 ‘ fore took in lodgers, and among the
 ‘ rest, an elderly man who rented the
 ‘ garret to sleep in, and a little turret in
 ‘ the garden, which he fitted up for
 ‘ himself for a work-shop: but what
 ‘ business he followed she never knew,
 ‘ as he let no body see him at work;
 ‘ nor

‘ nor did she trouble herself to enquire,
‘ as he always paid her punctually : but
‘ she imagined he was a smith of some
‘ sort, from the quantities of charcoal
‘ he burned, and the constant blowing
‘ of his bellows.

‘ In this place he spent all his time,
‘ often not quitting it for whole days
‘ and nights together, till hunger had
‘ forced him to crawl like a starved rat,
‘ out of his hole, to get a bit of vic-
‘ tuals.

‘ At first, my mother was uneasy at
‘ this, and imagining he must be *cut of*
‘ *his mind*, or troubled in conscience,
‘ she spoke about him to a worthy gen-
‘ tleman, a clergyman, that lived in
‘ the neighbourhood ; but he coming
‘ to see him at a time when he had a
‘ clean shirt on, and had eat his victuals
‘ and slept regularly for some time be-
‘ fore, his discourse was so sensible and
‘ pleasant, that the doctor could not help
‘ telling him the cause of his visit, as a
‘ joke, at my mother, to whom he said,
‘ when he was going away, that so far
‘ from being mad, he believed her lodg-
‘ er was the best scholar in the whole
‘ parish.

‘ My

‘ My mother’s good-nature had like
‘ to have left her her lodger, for as soon
‘ as the doctor was gone, he gave her
‘ warning, but upon her promising never
‘ to be guilty of the like indiscretion
‘ again, nor to trouble herself any farther
‘ about him, than just to give him what
‘ he should call for, he consented to
‘ stay.

‘ From that time he lived among us,
‘ as unnoticed as he could desire, fol-
‘ lowing his business without distur-
‘ bance from any one, nor appearing to
‘ give himself the least trouble about
‘ that of any other person living, except
‘ it was me, whom he taught to read,
‘ and said he would make his heir. An
‘ unhappy heirship, I am sure for me;
‘ for it hindered my marrying *Jack*
‘ *Twist* the rope-maker, who is now the
‘ toppingest man in all *Radcliff-high-*
‘ *way*, and then offered to take me in
‘ my shift.

‘ But there’s no help for that now!
‘ Luck is all! To be sure we thought
‘ he must be some extraordinary man,
‘ for he never wanted money, and then
‘ we

‘ we used to hear him talking to him-
‘ self sometimes, as if all the world
‘ was his own, of *building colleges, and*
‘ *churches, and houses, and altering St.*
‘ *Paul’s*, and I do not know what great
‘ things; and one day in particular, I
‘ remember he said, before us all, that
‘ before seven years, he would hire an
‘ army, that should drive the *pope* and
‘ the *devil* (Lord bless us) out of *Rome*;
‘ for to be sure, he would talk before
‘ us, as if we could not hear him, as
‘ we would also do any thing before him,
‘ as freely, as if he was a cat or a dog!
‘ Well, as I was saying, it was no won-
‘ der, to be sure, that such ignorant, poor
‘ folks, as we, should think much of him,
‘ especially after what the doctor said,
‘ and accordingly build great hopes up-
‘ on his promises.

‘ He went on thus for near 20 years,
‘ no soul ever coming near him, nor he
‘ going out, above once or twice in a
‘ year, and then not staying above an
‘ hour or two at a time.

‘ At length his health began to break
‘ very much, which made my mother
‘ often

‘ often speak to him, not to work so
‘ hard, for he had been with us so
‘ long, and was so quiet, and paid so
‘ honestly, that we all loved him, as if
‘ he was our father. But her advice
‘ was all to no purpose ; he still went
‘ on, bidding her not trouble herself,
‘ nor be afraid about him. But this did
‘ not satisfy her ; and one day, when
‘ he had been locked up, from the
‘ morning before, without having any
‘ victuals, or going to bed, she resolved
‘ to break through his orders, and call
‘ him to dinner.

‘ When she came to the turret, which
‘ he called his *laboratory*, she tapped
‘ gently at the door, but receiving no
‘ answer, nor hearing any noise within,
‘ she was so frightened, that she called
‘ me, to fetch the kitchen poker, with
‘ which she made a shift to force it
‘ open, when we found the poor man
‘ stretched at his length, upon the floor,
‘ to all appearance dead.

‘ This shocked us greatly ; but we
‘ did not alarm the neighbours, as we
‘ imagined there were things of value
‘ there, that might be displaced or taken
‘ away in the confusion : we therefore
‘ raised

‘ raised up ourselves, and after a little
‘ while, perceiving signs of life, carried him in, and laid him in our own
‘ bed, and pouring some drops into his
‘ mouth and nose, at length brought
‘ him to himself: when his first care
‘ was to enquire for the key of the turret, and whether any one else had
‘ been there, or any thing in it stirred :
‘ our answers satisfying him, he seemed quite easy, and in a little time recovered, to all appearance, as well as
‘ ever.

‘ From this time, he changed his
‘ way of life a good deal ; and though
‘ he was much in the turret, which we
‘ observed he ever after called his *study*,
‘ and not his *laboratory*, he never sat
‘ up whole nights in it, as before, nor
‘ bought any more charcoal, nor even
‘ oil for his lamp, but went to bed orderly when we did.

‘ But this change came too late, for
‘ about six months after, we found
‘ him one morning dead in his bed ;
‘ though he had been as cheary in the
‘ evening, as he had for a long time before.

‘ This

‘ This was a great surprize and concern to us ! But what avails grief :
 ‘ we must all die, and he was a very
 ‘ old man. As soon as we were certain that he was dead, the first thing
 ‘ my mother and I did, was to go to
 ‘ the turret, impatient enough to take
 ‘ possession of our heirship ; where,
 ‘ Lord help our poor heads ! what did
 ‘ we find ? only a few great old books,
 ‘ and those papers you got ; the very
 ‘ bellows, and tools, and pots that we
 ‘ saw there before, being all gone, and
 ‘ no more sign of a work shop to be
 ‘ seen, than if it was not the same
 ‘ place, we had been in, but six months
 ‘ before. What he could have done
 ‘ with his things, we could not imagine,
 ‘ for we never observed him to
 ‘ carry them out, so that we concluded
 ‘ he must have burned them.

‘ This was a fore disappointment to
 ‘ me, not to mention the loss to my
 ‘ mother, to whom he owed a quarter’s
 ‘ rent, beside an account of near
 ‘ twenty shillings in the shop ; and seven
 ‘ shillings and two-pence half-penny,
 ‘ was all the money in his pocket,
 ‘ nor did we ever find one penny more
 ‘ after

‘ after him, though we searched close
 ‘ enough! — Well! patience is a re-
 ‘ medy for all things, but death! We
 ‘ were forced to submit; though I can-
 ‘ not help grieving, when I think of
 ‘ it, to this day, especially when I
 ‘ see *Peg Sprout*, the green woman’s
 ‘ daughter, from *Wapping*, that *Jack*
 ‘ *Twist* married out of despair, when I
 ‘ refused him, ride by, in her chaise;
 ‘ like a lady; and it is now 30 years
 ‘ ago!—No! let me see! it will be ex-
 ‘ actly 29 years come next Michael-
 ‘ mas; I am sure I have reason to re-
 ‘ member it well, for my poor mother
 ‘ took it so to heart, that she never
 ‘ held up her head after, till it finished
 ‘ her, in about nine years; though I
 ‘ cannot say, but something else might
 ‘ have helped, for she took cruelly to
 ‘ drinking drams, though as she began
 ‘ it, to comfort her, for this misfor-
 ‘ tune, it was all owing to that; and
 ‘ poor sister Bett, too’ —

I was obliged to interrupt her here,
 by asking her, what kind of a person
 he was, or she would have gone on to
 give me the history of her whole fami-
 ly, to which she answered thus, ‘ What
 ‘ sort

‘ sort of a man ? I’ll tell you then : for
‘ I think I see him before my eyes,
‘ this minute. He was a tall thin man,
‘ about six foot high, and no thicker
‘ than a watchman’s staff, as I may
‘ say ; then his constant leaning over
‘ his work, bent his long back, like a
‘ bow, especially as he had no belly to
‘ keep it up, for he lived almost upon
‘ nothing, so that when he walked, the
‘ length of his legs, and his great stoop
‘ made him look as if he had no body
‘ at all. As for his face it was as long
‘ as my arm, and not broader than the
‘ edge of my hand ; his eyes were sunk
‘ half a foot into his head, and always
‘ covered with spectacles : his nose was
‘ hooked over his mouth, as his chin
‘ turned up an handful to meet that :
‘ and the constant toasting over the
‘ charcoal, had shriveled up his skin so,
‘ that his whole face looked, as if it
‘ was covered with scorched parchment.
‘ --His dress (for I never knew him have
‘ but one) was a black coat, with little
‘ buttons all over it ; which being made
‘ for him, while he stood upright, now
‘ that he stooped so much, hung down
‘ to his ankles : a broad leather belt,
‘ that kept his coat about him ; a
‘ cloak,

‘ cloak, which he hung upon his shoulders, but was so worn, that it shewed his skeleton through every part of it; and an old high-crowned hat. In short he had so little of the appearance of a creature of this world, in his looks or dress, that whenever he went out, in the day time, the mob all gathered about him, and hooted him home, just as the little birds do an owl; and some of our wicked neighbours, when any accident has happened, have often threatened to take him up, and *dip* him for a witch, though I am persuaded, that was nothing but wickedness and malice, and that he knew no more harm than a baby.’

My curiosity being thus satisfied as to the author, there was but one thing more, that I desired to know, and that was. how those papers came to have so many blots made in them, which by the difference of the ink, I could see was done long since the first writing, to which she answered, that some time after the old man’s death, her mother let his apartment to one that called himself a clergyman, and was a great scholar,

scholar, and used to make almanacks, and other books; that he had looked over those papers, and she believed, taken out such as he liked, and done what he pleased with the rest; for they set no regard on them; and particularly she remembered to have heard him say, that he would make something of one of them; but she believed, he found it would not do, for he soon after left their house, and joining with those methodists, that were just then come up, went away with them, preaching about the country.

I thought it but reasonable to reward the good woman's expence of breath, with half a crown, and so took my leave, though with a secret resolution, to give her half the profit, if there arises any, from the sale of the books, not thinking that such a purchase, as I had made from an ignorant woman, could give me a just title to the whole *beirship*, as she called it, that had cost her so dear, as the loss of her old sweet-heart *Jack Twist*.

This good woman's account explained to me, in some measure, the nature
of

of this work, from the circumstances of the author, who, I could see, had been a schemer, who had wasted his whole fortune, in the search, after the philosopher's stone, and having his eyes at length opened to his folly, though too late to remedy it, yet was able to divert the grief of his disappointment, by writing these papers, in ridicule of such notions, and from the sale of which he might also expect some relief to his wants.

How just this expectation might have been then, it is now very hard to say, in their present mutilated condition ; or what could have moved any man, to make such havock in them ; unless it was, that the orthodoxy of the clergyman was offended at the author's notions, which he wanted judgment to see, were only a delicate ridicule, of those wild, idle dreams, which some men, who call themselves philosophers, have thought proper gravely to obtrude upon the world, as learning and knowledge.

But whatever the motive was, the loss is now irreparable, and has reduced the
the

the work to the appearance of a novel or romance, almost the whole philosophical part having been erased; for as to the personal application of any thing in it, to the present times, the least attention to this account of the author, will shew the absurdity and injustice of such an attempt; as it was wrote so long ago, and by a person so little acquainted with the world, that all the stories in it must necessarily be the mere creatures of imagination.

For the manner in which they are published, I shall only say, that it is strictly agreeable to the faith of the text; not one, of the many alterations and interpolations, which were in another hand, being given; but wherever I could not clearly make out the very words of the author, I honestly omitted the whole, not thinking it allowable or just, to palm my own words or sentiments upon the world, on the credit of another.

How scrupulous I have been, in this point, will appear to any one, who shall take the pains of consulting the original manuscript, which shall be deposited

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deposited in the publick library of one of the universities, as soon as the work is printed. The only liberty I have taken, being in a few notes in the margin.

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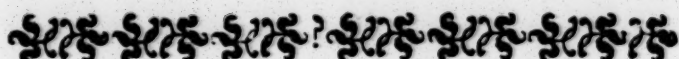
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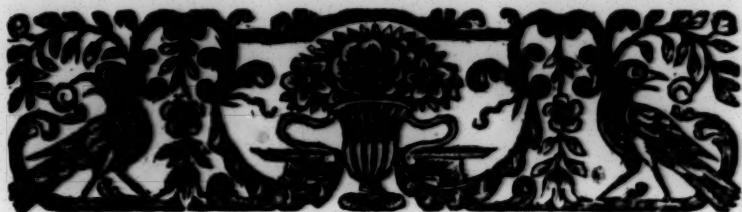
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CHRYSAI:

OR, THE

ADVENTURES

OF A

GUINEA.

CHAP. I.

The Apparition of CHRYSAI to an ADEPT, in the very moment of projection. His account of himself, and the cause of his appearing to the author.



N a day, when long and strict abstinence had purified my body from every *terrene* incumbrance, and intense contemplation wound up my mind to an enthusiasm fit for *empyrean* conversation, as I stood with my eyes riveted on the *obstetrick* flame, in strong expectation of the birth of the *mystlick child*, the first-

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B

born

born of the morning, ready to seize the happy moment, when the earth sufficiently impregnated with the water, ascendeth white and splendid, that I might compound the pure elements, before they fly from the fire, and so perfect the great work; my eyes began to dazzle, and the power of imagination overwhelmed my soul — I saw a blue effulgence break from the liquid gold, and play about the genial vase! — I was astonished! I thought it the substantial form of the son of the sun! I thought the happy moment was come when the rose of the east should bloom in the desert, and mine the favoured hand to cultivate its growth! I indulged the pleasing thought! I melted in the virtuous joy! and in obedience to the divine impulse, I knelt to receive the reward of all my labours, the radiant crown of wisdom and glory, from the hand of nature, with every sense and faculty suspended, for fear of interrupting the mysterious process.

As my soul hung in this extasy, the flame which wrapped the sacred birth in the bed of purification, arose with a glory too strong for mortal sense, and filled the room. My senses sunk under the pressure and I was dissolved into a trance, when a voice, celestially harmonious, encouraged me to raise my eyes, and I beheld the body of the effulgence condense into an incorporeal substance in the form of a spirit, while a placid shade softened the fierceness of the radiance, and made it tolerable to human sense.

An holy horror curdled all my blood; but the melody of the same voice, which had before emboldened me to look up, reassured my fainting

fainting heart with these words; “ Son of
 “ pains and votary of science! thy unwea-
 “ ried perseverance has prevailed, and I am
 “ sent to crown thee with the virgin rose! I
 “ am CHRYSAL, the spirit of that incor-
 “ ruptible mass now glowing in that vase be-
 “ fore thee, who in reward of thy noble
 “ constancy in offering this thy last mite, on
 “ the shrine of knowledge, am come to re-
 “ veal the mysteries of nature to thee, and
 “ satisfy that raging thirst for wisdom, which
 “ has so long excruciated thy soul, and thus
 “ emaciated thy body! And that thou mayest
 “ the better comprehend the greatness of this
 “ honour vouchsafed unto thee, I shall trace
 “ the operations of nature through her most
 “ secret recesses, and illustrate the truth of
 “ what I say, by a detail of the various in-
 “ cidents of my being, in my present state, to
 “ prepare thee for the reception and proper
 “ use of that *grand secret*, which I shall after-
 “ wards communicate!

“ I can see your thoughts; and will an-
 “ swer every doubt which may arise in your
 “ mind at the wonders of my relation, with-
 “ out the interruption of your inquiries, as
 “ *awful silence is the essence of my converse*,
 “ the least breach of which puts an end to
 “ it for ever! listen then in mute atten-
 “ tion, nor let a breath disturb the mystic
 “ tale!”——

The works of nature are infinitely va-
 rious, and her methods of operation inscru-
 table to the curiosity of that vain intruder
 Reason, which has of late presumed to pry
 into her ways, and to doubt, if not deny, the

4 C H R Y S A L: *Or the*

reality of all effects, which her short-sighted eye cannot trace to their causes! a presumption that has justly shortened the line of human knowledge, and condensed the mist of ignorance which overspreads the world! Some noble efforts though I see the nature of man preparing to make, to recover that eminence of conjecture and credulity which alone can merit such a communication of extraordinary knowledge as is now indulged to you. Some of the most hidden truths which I shall here unfold, has unassisted genius discovered already; and more shall curious penetration make learned guesses at, even in this sceptick age *

Know then, that in the oeconomy of nature, to ease the trouble, and keep up the state of its great author †, a subordination of ministerial spirits executes the system of his government in all its degrees; one of whom, for the greater order and expedition, is made to actuate every divided particle of matter in this immense universe. In this distribution, *that* portion of gold was assigned to my charge, upon its first feeling the influence of the § ethereal fire of the sun, the general minister of

* See all the modern hypothetical philosophy.

† Essay on Spirit.

§ Siris.

— Would not these, and many other passages of the same nature which support the systems of those celebrated works, almost tempt us to think, that the writers of them must have had a communication with this or some such spirit, to come at knowledge so supernatural?

the

the divine commands. This happened in *Peru*, where *that* body of which I then became the spirit, was torn from its peaceful bed 200 fathoms deep in the bowels of the earth.

I shall not describe my surprize, at my first plunging into those realms of darkness, nor shall I satisfy the curiosity I see rising in you, whether that period was the beginning of my existence, or whether I was, either as a punishment or reward for a past, or a preparation for a future life, thrown into this. These are mysteries not yet discovered, though often most learnedly guessed at. All I shall unfold to you are points already known, or such as I see ready to be found out by human industry, as it would put an end to learning to make a revelation of the objects of its enquiries! such matters, I say, I shall explain to you, and farther relate some occurrences, the knowledge of which will be equally useful and entertaining, which happened to the several persons with whom I have had intercourse, in the various stages of my present state.

And as you may be at a loss, to know how I could arrive at the knowledge of such facts, many of which happened long before my converse with those persons, I shall inform you, that besides that *intuitive knowledge* common to all spirits, we of superior orders, who animate this universal monarch GOLD, have also a power of entering into the hearts of the immediate possessors of our bodies, and there reading all the secrets of their lives. And this will explain to you,

6 CHRYSA L: Or the

the cause of that love of gold, which is so remarkable in all who possess any quantity of that metal. * For the operation of every material cause, is in proportion to the strength of the spirit actuating that cause; as the strength of the spirit is reciprocally in proportion to the quantity of his material body: and consequently, when the mighty spirit of a large mass of gold takes possession of the human heart, it influences all its actions, and overpowers, or banishes, the weaker impulse of those immaterial, unessential notions called *virtues*. And this intuition, and power of transmigration I have thus explained, to remove every shadow of doubt of what I shall relate.

CH A P. II.

CHRYSA L gives an account of the person who dug up his body, in the mine. The particular manner of his acquiring the knowledge of his life, with an explanation of the nature of memory and consciousness.

THE first object that struck me, when I darted on the power of a sun-beam, into those infernal regions where my body was just dug up, was the person in whose hands it was when I took possession of it.

* Essay on Spirit.

Dark

Dark as the gloom of such a place must be, a melancholy that doubled the horrors of it, sat upon his brow. He gazed a moment on me, in silent grief, and then groaned out these words with a vehemence that seemed to burst his heart: "Damned, damned, pernicious, " damning gold! how dearly do I purchase " this momentary possession of thee! But let " me acknowledge the justice of my fate! I " wished only for gold, and now, this equivocal grant of that wish, is the just punishment of the folly, and the wickedness " of it."—Grief here choked his utterance! he could say no more, but sobbed aloud, while all the dreary caverns echoed to his anguish

Curiosity prompted me to learn the cause of his distress: I therefore immediately entered into his heart, to read the events of his life, which I doubted not but I should find deeply imprinted there: but I was surprized to find that room in it, which I could plainly see, had been possessed by the love of gold, so filled with sense of pain, with grief, and remorse, that I could scarce gain admission.

Upon this I mounted into the *cenforium* of his brain, to learn from the spirit of consciousness which you call SELF, the cause of so uncommon a change, as it is contrary to the fundamental rules of our order, ever to give up an heart of which we once get possession.

I found the spirit very busy, though I thought somewhat oddly employed: she was

running over a number of *niches*, or impressions on the fibres of the brain, some of which I observed she renewed with such force, that she almost effaced others, which she passed over untouched, though interspersed among them. The sight of *me* seemed to suspend her works a moment, but as if that pause was only to recover strength, she instantly renewed her labour with greater assiduity.

I *looked at her*, my desire to know the meaning of what she was doing, and to signify the cause of my visit, to which she returned me this answer in a *glance*, that interrupted not her work.

(I see you wonder, that I speak of this spirit, though the *SELF* of a man, as if it was a female; but in this there is a mystery; every spirit is of both sexes, but as the female is the worthier with us, we take our denomination from that.)

You are surprised, (*looked she*) to find me so earnestly engaged, in work which you do not understand; but in this work consists my very essence. This place, where we are, is the seat of memory; and these traces, which you see me running over thus, are the impressions made on the brain by a communication of the impressions made on the senses by external objects.—These first impressions are called *ideas*, which are lodged in this repository of the memory, in these marks, by running which over, I can raise the same *ideas*, when I please, which differ from their first appearance only in this,
that,

that, on their return, they come with the familiarity of a former acquaintance.

How this communication though is made, I cannot so well inform you ; whether it is by the *oscillation of the nervous fibres*, or by the *operation of a certain invisible fluid*, called *animal spirits*, on the nerves ; no more than I can explain to you, how my touching these marks, on this material substance the brain, can raise *ideas* in the immaterial mind, and with the addition of acquaintance beside ; for these are matters not quite fully settled among the learned.

All I know is, that the thing is agreed to be so by some, or other, or all of these means ; and that my whole employment, and end of being, is to touch them over, and acknowledge their acquaintance thus ; without my doing which, a man would no longer continue the same person, for in this acquaintance, which is called *consciousness*, does all personal identity consist. *

As for the work I am just now particularly engaged in, you must know, that this man whom, as I am *his self*, I shall henceforth, for conciseness and perspicuity, call *my self*, was once possessed of, or in power of possessing, every real happiness of life, till an insatiable desire of riches hurried him into measures which overturned all that happiness, and in the end plunged him into this gulph of misery.

The traces of that happiness are those which you see me pass over without renew-

* Locke.

ing ; by which means he forgets that he was ever happy, except sometimes, when the trace of any particular unhappiness comes so near that of any instance of happiness, as unavoidably to touch it ; which touch, by the renewal of the idea of such happiness, only aggravates the sense of the present want of it ; And thus *I* make memory either a blessing or a curse, according to the nature of the trace which *I* renew.

I see you are astonished, how a person who was ever happy, could possibly fall into such misery as *I* am now in ; but I shall remove that astonishment, by the history of *my* life, in which I shall accommodate my accounts of places and things to the circumstances of my present state, without regard to the universality of *our* spiritual nature ; and call them by their names among men, without the delay or trouble of description.

C H A P. III.

The history of TRAFFICK. His father's advice to him ; containing some general observations on the nature and end of trade ; with rules to ensure success in it.

MY name is *Traffick* ; I was the only son of a wealthy merchant in *London*, who bred me to his own business. There was nothing remarkable in my youth, except that the characteristick passion of my heart,

heart, shewed itself, in the very dawn of reason, in my eagerness to engross and hoard up the bawbles of my play-mates, and the far-fetched schemes I laid to over-reach them in all our little bargains.

My father was at first delighted with this cunning, which his fondness took for the first essays of a great genius ; but, when he saw me persist in it after I grew up, and attempt to practise the same arts, in the course of my business, it gave him serious alarms for my future conduct ; for he had ever been averse to these artifices which are called the mysteries of commerce, and owed his success solely to close application, in the plain way of a fair trader.

But this caution I looked upon with contempt, as timidity and want of genius, and, undiscouraged by his constant repulses to all my *bold strokes* and deep schemes, which I was continually suggesting to him, I resolved, when I should be at liberty, to indulge my own inclinations, to strike out new ways, that should afford me opportunities of exerting my abilities in their full strength, and shewing them in their proper lustre.

The vanity which prompted avarice to form these designs, would so often break out in boasting, that my father was fully acquainted with them ; and a sensible decline in his health quickening his apprehensions for me, his tenderness would omit nothing which might shew me my error, in its proper light, and prevent my falling into so destructive ways.

Calling

Calling me therefore into his closet, one morning, he addressed me in these words ; words which dear experience has now printed deeply on my heart, though then they had no weight with me.

“ My son (said he) the day approaches
“ fast, when you will be in possession of the
“ fruits of my honest industry. I leave you
“ a good fortune ; and I have the happiness
“ to be able to tell you, in this trying
“ moment, that no wilful private wrong,
“ or public fraud, makes me wish it were,
“ by one penny, less. ———As therefore
“ it was acquired in the fear of God, if
“ not abused, it will wear with his blessing.
“ Habit had so wedded me to my
“ business, that I could not leave it off
“ myself ; and I bred you to it, to indulge,
“ as I thought, the bent of your genius,
“ and to prevent idleness from tempting
“ youth to folly. ———But now, that dangerous
“ season is past with you ; and
“ the labour of my life has taken away
“ all necessity of labour from yours. Be
“ wise then, my son, and enjoy the happiness
“ which Heaven offers you, without
“ tempting a reverse ! You will have
“ riches, more than enough, for every natural
“ want, for every rational wish ;
“ and it will sweeten your enjoyment of
“ them, and draw down the blessings of
“ heaven on your head, to employ the super-
“ plus in acts of private benevolence,
“ and public spirit ; in which best of employ-
“ ments, the abilities, with which you
“ are

“ are so liberally blessed, will find ample
“ room for their exertion; and your pious
“ endeavours be rewarded with a success, that
“ will be an happiness to your life, and an
“ honour to your name.

“ As for the profession of a merchant, to
“ which you have been bred, heaven points
“ it out to the inhabitants of this coun-
“ try, by our situation; nor can any other
“ be more advantageous to it; but still,
“ even that advantage may be pursued too
“ far, and the extreme industry may sink
“ into avarice, and so disappoint its own
“ end.

“ For I must tell you, my son, that
“ though trade adds to the wealth, yet
“ too eager a pursuit of it, even with the
“ greatest success, diminishes the strength
“ of a nation. I am sensible, that this is
“ against received opinion; but truth, when
“ properly displayed, will force conviction.

“ The real strength of a nation consists in
“ the prevalence of disinterested spirit, which,
“ regardless of *self*, throws its weight in-
“ to the public fund; as may be proved
“ by many examples of small, poor states,
“ conquering large wealthy ones. Where-
“ as the spirit of commerce centers all in
“ *self*, discouraging and despising, as folly,
“ every thought which does not tend that
“ way; and so breaking that unanimity,
“ which is the very essence of power, and on-
“ ly can give it success——A reflection this,
“ my son, which observation confirms too
“ strongly at present, and which seems to
“ overcast the prospect of this happy nation.

“ My

“ My advice therefore to you is, to re-
 “ tire from business, though not to idleness.
 “ You will have a fortune that will make
 “ you of consequence in the state, and give
 “ you sufficient employment in the conduct
 “ of it, without embarrassing your mind
 “ with anxiety for more. And, to enable
 “ you to follow this advice with the great-
 “ er ease, I have settled all my affairs, and
 “ shall leave you free from every entangle-
 “ ment of life. This is the advice, the re-
 “ quest of a fond father, who desires com-
 “ pliance from his dear son, and would not
 “ force unwilling obedience, by an act of
 “ authority or command. — But should
 “ the love of business have taken such an
 “ hold of your heart, as habit gave it of
 “ mine, and not permit you to comply
 “ with this request, take, my son, the ad-
 “ vice of experience, and hold fast the clue it
 “ offers, to guide you through the laby-
 “ rinths of trade, in which the vivacity of
 “ your genius may, otherwise, lose its way.
 “ Nor are the rules, I shall hint to you,
 “ many to be remembered, or difficult to be
 “ observed.

“ *Be just, my son, in all your dealings ;*
 “ *wrong not individuals, nor defraud the*
 “ *public.*

“ These are all the rules I recommend ;
 “ but in them is comprized more than, per-
 “ haps, appears at first view. Do not, there-
 “ fore, think them too obvious to have been
 “ necessary to be repeated ! nor let the men-
 “ tion of them give offence, by any seem-
 “ ing implication of personal doubt.

In

“ In the business of a merchant, these
“ rules comprehend a great extent of mean-
“ ing, though I shall mention but a few in-
“ stances of it at present.

“ As for the first, every misrepresentation
“ to mislead ignorance, or abuse credulity,
“ every taking advantage by superior know-
“ ledge, is a wrong to the party so deceived,
“ as every artifice to evade the intention of
“ the legislature is a fraud against the public,
“ nay, against yourself, and every individ-
“ ual who claims the benefits provided
“ by the ordinances, so defeated of their sup-
“ port.

“ This indeed is so obvious, that it were
“ an affront to reason to insist on any proof
“ it. The most eager pursuer of illicit trade
“ will not vindicate a general indulgence of
“ it; and if it is not lawful for all, how can
“ it be for him; or with what colour can
“ he claim a profit, which he is conscious
“ arises only from deceit, and from the bene-
“ fit of those very laws, which it thus de-
“ feats.

“ The temptations to this breach of ho-
“ nesty, I own, are many and great, and
“ some of them, perhaps, plausible; par-
“ ticularly in those branches of trade, which
“ seem to bear a more than equal share
“ of the weight imposed for general ad-
“ vantage. But, in opposition to this, it
“ must be considered, that it is impossible
“ to provide so exactly for a thing, of so
“ fluctuating a nature as trade, that the bal-
“ lance shall not incline, in some one in-
“ stance; and that it must, by the same
“ motion

“ motion which oppresses one, be favour-
 “ able to some other ; and so preserve the
 “ equi-poise in the whole ; and this obvi-
 “ ates the only shadow of an argument,
 “ that can be brought in defence of this too
 “ common practice.

“ As for the former, of avoiding private
 “ wrong, that is more difficult, and less
 “ defensible, if possible, than even this. For
 “ where all the powers of the mind are, turn-
 “ ed to *make* advantage, it is very hard to
 “ refrain from *taking* it, where we ought
 “ not, and bringing the great business of
 “ life into common practice, in its minutest
 “ concerns.

“ The man whose soul is on the stretch
 “ to take advantage, in a bargain for thou-
 “ sands, on the *Exchange*, will be apt per-
 “ haps insensibly to overlook an error that
 “ is not to his disadvantage in a trades-
 “ man's bill, or to take no notice of a gui-
 “ nea given instead of a shilling in change
 “ at the tavern, though either is as great
 “ dishonesty as if he took them, in a man-
 “ ner punishable with death by the laws :
 “ not to mention the innumerable little in-
 “ stances of temptation to this kind of
 “ wrong, which occur in every moment's
 “ dealing. That we may avoid temptation,
 “ is one of the petitions of the divine prayer,
 “ and never more necessary to be offered up
 “ than in this profession, whose constant
 “ practice opens innumerable instances of it
 “ upon us.

“ In a word, my son, there are so many
 “ and so strong arguments of this nature,
 “ to

“ to be given against all trade, that the general advantage of the common-wealth alone can, in any way, support it against them. This therefore should be written in the deepest characters, on the heart of every merchant, *that he should never let private interest tempt him to engage in any trade or scheme that can interfere with the publick interest, or is forbidden by the laws of his country*——I shall say no more ; nor burthen your mind with farther advice. Observe this, and be happy.”

I was obliged to hear him ; but his words, at that time, made no more impression on my mind, than the whistling of the winds, nor in the least altered my intentions ; though I felt no scruple in promising obedience, the breach of which could never be upbraided to me, as I could not think of practising it, before his death should remove the only person who had such an authority.

CHAP. IV.

The history of TRAFFICK continued. His father's death. He continues in trade, and turns schemer. His various schemes end in his ruin. The rise and progress of his passion for AMELIA. The base abuse of her confidence, by which he cheated her of the greatest part of her fortune, and afterwards formed dishonourable designs against herself.

THE opportunities which I had long panted for, arrived too soon: my father dying just after I was of age, and leaving me possessed of wealth sufficient for me to exercise my talents on, as I was not blessed with prudence to take his advice, and put it to its proper use, in rational enjoyment.

I was immediately a man of consequence, and that, not only in my own eyes. I made a figure upon *Change*; I signed among the foremost in the public subscriptions. But all this did not satisfy me. I sickened at the thought of having an equal, not only in wealth, the darling passion of my soul; but also in the reputation of acquiring it by methods of my own *striking out*, as I looked upon the known course of business as too slow for my advances, and too limited for my genius.

I therefore

I therefore immediately became a SCHEMER, and entered into every project which my own brain could invent, or artful imposition suggest to me, blindly, wilfully giving up the serenity of an open mind, for the vain appearance of mysterious consequence and design ; and making my fortune a prey to every sharking *projector* who flattered my vanity with promises of success, in the very attempts which had been his own ruin.

The perplexity in which this infatuation soon involved my affairs, far from opening my eyes, only set me upon deeper schemes. *Sporting* upon private adventures, *taking in* unwary confidence, *flinging* the fair trader, by eluding the restrictions of law, were now too small a game for me : I was entangled, and must cut the *Gordian knot* by some bold stroke.

I therefore threw off all restraint, and entered into measures the most injurious to my country, which was then engaged in a just and extensive war. I *insured* the effects of its enemies, and of consequence gave them information how to avoid its forces. I *carried on their trade* with other countries : I *supplied* them with provisions from ours ; and at length went so far, as to *lend, and procure them money* to support the war against ourselves.

But all my schemes met their just fate. Though I could give their ships information how to avoid our squadrons, yet they fell into the hands of *unflinched* privateers. My subterfuges for carrying on their trade were

were seen through, and a stop put to them before I could receive the stipulated profit. The stores I bought for them were intercepted by our fleets, and, to conclude all, the enemy, by one stretch of arbitrary power, at the conclusion of a peace, cancelled all the debts of the war.

This finished my ruin : I had not only lent them all my own fortune, but had also borrowed much more to supply them, on confidence in their promises, than I was now able to pay.

In this situation, the advice of my father returned full upon me, and aggravated my distress. But I had no time for reflection ; the horrors of a goal stared me full in the face, which I had no way to avoid but by flight, the equivocalness of my character having made every honest man, who was able to assist me, afraid of being concerned with me.

I therefore immediately raised all the money I possibly could, and embarked secretly in a ship of my own, for *Jamaica* ; Heaven, to make its justice the more signal, using my blackest guilt as a chain to draw me to the vengeance I deserved.

I must stop here, and look back, to give you an account of an affair, which the precipitancy of my ruin prevented my mentioning in its proper order.

Much as such a complicated scene as I have described, must have taken up my time and engrossed my thoughts, I had still found leisure for guilt of another nature, though ultimately springing from the same cause.

I have

I have told you, that my father had acquired his own fortune by industry ; but as the greatest industry requires a foundation to work upon, his had been assisted by the person to whom he served his apprenticeship, who knowing his abilities, and confiding in his honesty, upon the decline of his own health, established him in partnership with his only son, whom he thought too young to conduct so extensive a business.

My father faithfully executed this great trust, and continued the partnership, till his observation of my unfortunate disposition determined him to make me quit business ; when it was dissolved, without the least breach in that real friendship which had so long subsisted between them. Though I did not obey my father's desire, and retire from business on his death, yet my vanity would not admit a thought of recommencing the partnership, as it would have been but a curb on my favourite schemes, and have implied a want of assistance, which, in my own opinion, I was far above. On the contrary, I rather declined too close a connection with him in business ; as I feared he might have taken upon him to interpose his advice against any thing, which his *narrow fearful* temper might disapprove in my *great* designs ; but as I kept up every other appearance of regard, and even respect for him, this shyness was not observed, nor any coolness occasioned by it, in the intercourse of intimacy between us.

But

But for this conduct I had another motive, besides regard for *him*. He had an only daughter, enriched with every beauty and virtue that could mark the favourite work of heaven : she was about four years younger than me, which difference of age had given me an opportunity of treating her with such a fondness, from her very infancy, as raised a real love in her grateful heart, as her beauties did the strongest one it was capable of feeling in mine. Our fathers had seen this growing attachment, with the greatest pleasure, from the beginning, and encouraged it between us, (our mothers both died in our infancy) joining in the general opinion, that the union which had always been between their families would be completed by the intermarriage of their children : an opinion that was then my pride, and seemed a pleasure to the young *Amelia's* honest heart, that was above disguise.

But my father's death, before she was of an age to undertake the care of such an awful state, and a long illness of her father's after, during which her filial piety and love would not admit a thought of any thing that should interfere with her tender regard for him, prevented my happiness from being accomplished, while there was any obstacle that could hinder my evil genius from defeating it.

At length, after languishing five years, her father died, without a moment's more immediate warning, having been on the exchange that day as usual.

In

In the tumult of this loss, I was sent for ; and no will being found, for he unhappily had not imagined his end so near, nor made any settlement of his affairs, in the confidence of our attachment, *Amelia* gave every thing into my hands, and requested me to make up all her father's accompts, and conclude her dealings with the world.

This happened just as my *scheming* had begun to embarrass my affairs. My heart therefore, never proof to much temptation, yielded to such an opportunity of recovering the losses of my folly at her expence, by *sinking* the greatest part of her fortune to my own use ; never considering, that I might have the whole in a just and honourable way, enhanced with the greater blessing of herself.

To accomplish this design, and prepare her for what was to follow, I pretended to *Amelia*, that I found many difficulties in her father's affairs ; and having secreted as much as I thought proper, and could with safety, and destroyed every memorial that might detect me, for all which her unbounded confidence gave ample opportunity, I at length gave her in an accompt, with the strongest expressions of concern, *to find that what I had long apprehended was too true, and her father's affairs in a very bad situation ; that I had however, with great difficulty, got together something above 10,000 l. and was convinced, that this perplexity in his affairs, was the occasion of his long illness, and had not left him spirit enough to enquire into them, and make a will.*

This

This representation had the effect I designed; *Amelia's* confidence in me would not admit a thought of my deceiving her; as pride, too powerful in the purest human heart, prevented her revealing her circumstances to any one else, who might have attempted to disprove what I said; though indeed it was scarce natural to suspect me of a deceit, that, according to the opinion which then prevailed concerning *Amelia* and me, could only affect myself.

She, therefore, with an appearance of surprise rather than doubt, or even concern, acquiesced, and signed a receipt in full, desiring me to destroy all her father's books and papers, as they could be of no farther use to her.

This completed my design, beyond a possibility of detection, and even raised a new one against the poor pittance I had left her, though it was not quite a fourth part of what was really her right: for I had now thrown off all thoughts of marriage with one *so far beneath me in fortune, looking upon it as a reproach to my wisdom and knowledge of the world, to make any bargain in which I should not have the advantage*: for what I had so basely defrauded her of, I considered merely as an acquisition of my superior skill in business, and absolutely my own, without any manner of obligation to the person from whom I had obtained it: not that I had lost my *desire* for her person, (the only degree of love my heart was capable of feeling) but the advantage I had it now in my hopes to obtain over her, made
me

me look upon her as a sure prey to my pleasure.

C H A P. V.

Continued. He cheats AMELIA of the residue of her fortune, and marries another woman. AMELIA sues him at law, is cast, and goes for JAMAICA. He is ruined, and follows her.

THOUGH my whole life was one continued scene of villainy, yet in all, there was a gradation, a regular descent from bad to worse; each successful crime opening new opportunities and suggesting schemes which never entered into my thoughts before.

This was exactly my case with regard to *Amelia*. While she was in possession of her whole fortune, the highest wish of my heart was to marry her; but no sooner had an unhappy accident given me an opportunity of defrauding her of far the greatest part of it, than that respectful love immediately sunk into loose desire, and my success in the former set my thoughts at work to accomplish the gratification of the latter, on my own base terms.

To bring this design to perfection, it was necessary that I should get her fortune entirely into my power; which I accordingly formed schemes to accomplish without delay: for the success of my former attempt, so far

from satisfying my avarice, or raising any sense of compassion in my breast, for her wrongs, had made me look upon herself, and all that belonged to her, as my property, which I was as impatient to possess as if it was detained from me by injustice.

I therefore took occasion one day, when we were alone together, to drop some words of concern, at my not having immediately by me, a sum of money to lay out on most advantageous terms, which had been that very morning proposed to me.

She directly took the hint, and said, her little fortune was still in her hands, in the same bank-notes I had given her; and if the use of it, for any time, could be of advantage to me, she should feel a greater pleasure in my taking it, than in any profit she could make of it any other way.

This was just what I wished; and though I could scarce refrain from laughing, at the easiness with which she took the bait, I would not accept of her offer but with this restriction, that I would consider whether the terms proposed to *me* might not suit *her*, and be more advantageous than the interest I could afford her if I should make use of it myself. I said this with an equivocal smile, which she understood as I would have her, and immediately, with an assenting blush, put the notes into my hand, without requiring a receipt or any kind of acknowledgment for them.

Having

Having thus gained that which I reckoned the better part of *Amelia*, and sure, as I imagined, of herself, when necessity should humble her to my designs, as I had her whole means even of subsistence in my power, I directly resolved to close with an offer, some time before made me by a wealthy merchant, of a large fortune, with his daughter, whom I accordingly married a few days after I had got possession of *Amelia's* money.

I shall spare myself the pain of any farther description of my wife, than that she was the very reverse of *Amelia*, in soul and body; and my marriage consequently as unhappy as I justly deserved.

But I comforted myself with hopes of happiness in the enjoyment of *Amelia*, whom I looked upon as my own, and only deferred making my base proposals to, till her resentment at my marriage should cool, and I could devise some plan of privacy to elude the vigilance of my wife. Not but I dreaded the first emotions of her anger, which I expected to break out in loud complaints. But I was mistaken, in measuring her soul thus by my own. She scorned to complain; nor did I hear a word from her, to interrupt the riot of my wedding. A greatness of soul, so far above my comprehension, that I attributed it to fear of giving offence to one, in whose power she must be sensible she was.

But, at the end of the month, I was awoke from those dreams, by a message from her, delivered by a relation of her's, to desire I

should pay in her money to him, for which he would give me her receipt. As I was not prepared for this, I believe it threw me into a confusion too visible ; but I soon recovered presence of mind enough to answer, that
 “ I could not but be surprized at such a demand, as *Amelia* must be sensible, that I
 “ had paid her all the money of her’s that was
 “ in my hands, for which I had her discharge
 “ in full.

The gentleman replied in astonishment,
 “ Her discharge, Sir ! that was when you
 “ settled her affairs ; but she says, that she,
 “ since then, gave her whole fortune into
 “ your hands, to lay out for her. And, Sir,
 “ my cousin is known to be neither a fool
 “ nor a liar ; though I fear she has suffered severely for her ill-placed confidence”.——
 “ Perhaps she says so, Sir, (said I) but I
 “ know nothing of the matter, and am not
 “ accountable for what she says or you think,
 “ Sir ; and I suppose, if your cousin is not a
 “ fool, she has not given her money without
 “ something to shew for it.——But you must
 “ excuse my talking any longer on so idle a
 “ subject ; and so Sir, your servant.”——
 The mine was now sprung, and I waited with impatience for the event. As to her demand, I knew she could never support it, as there was no person present when she gave me the notes ; and I had negociated them in a manner, beyond all possibility of their being traced.

While I was hugging myself in this security, the friends of *Amelia* persuaded her to bring

bring a bill in Chancery against me, in which the whole affair was set forth without any exaggeration. But this I made light of, as I had my *la vyer* ready, under whose directions I swore such an answer as set her charge entirely aside.—Elate with this success, I thought this the time to pursue my victory, and wrote her a letter, in which I attributed every thing in my conduct of late, that might have surprized her, to love, and despair of obtaining her by any other method; and offered her a settlement above the demand she had made to me, if she would consent to my desires. This I wrote in such general terms, that my letter could not be brought in evidence against me, and the largeness of the offer was only to decoy her into a treaty, there being nothing farther from my thoughts than ever to make her independant of my pleasure.

This insult only added new fuel to her resentment; and all the answer I received, was by another bill; but this met the same fate, by the same methods, with the former.

After this, I heard no more of *Amelia* for some time: but what was my astonishment, when I was informed, that she had sold off her jewels, and other little effects, and was gone to a relation of her's, who lived in *Jamaica*. This broke all my designs; and despair of ever obtaining her awoke my love, and aggravated my remorse for my ill usage of her almost to madness.

From this time the hand of heaven seemed to be upon me; every thing I had any concern in miscarried; and to hasten on my ruin, my house was a perfect sink of riot and debauchery: my wife, as she had no charms to excite desire, in a manner publickly purchasing the gratification of her lusts at the most extravagant expence, and living in a profusion that must destroy even a royal fortune.

Mine, great as it had been, sunk under so many dissipations of all kinds; and I had no resource left as I said before, but in precipitate flight, which heaven made my passion for *Amelia* direct to *Jamajica*, to mark the justice of its vengeance the more plainly.

C H A P. VI.

Conclusion of the history of TRAFFICK. He arrives at Jamaica, where he learns that AMELIA had been taken by the Spaniards. He turns buccanier, and ravages the Spanish coasts, where he finds AMELIA. Just as he is going to seize her; he is knocked down by her husband, and taken prisoner. He is condemned to die. He sues to AMELIA for mercy; she rejects him with abhorrence. His punishment is changed from death to the mines.

I Had hitherto varnished over my villanies with hypocrisy, and strove to preserve some ap-

appearance, at least, of virtue. But this was a restraint no longer possible, nor indeed profitable to me now, when my flight took off the veil, and alarmed all mankind against me ; so that mine was really a state of war with all the world.

On my arrival in *Jamaica*, I had the addition to my grief to find, that *Amelia* had been taken in her passage thither by a *Spanish* privateer : for she had left *England* some time before the conclusion of the peace had completed my ruin.

This drove me to despair : I was wearied of life ; but resolved not to die unrevenged on those who had thus, as I thought, robbed me of my hopes ; never reflecting on the improbability of her hearkening to my suit.

Burning with this project, I fitted out my ship, and manned her with a crew as desperate as myself ; resolving, though the war was at an end, to pursue my revenge upon the *Spaniards* on the defenceless coasts of their *American* dominions, in which my other passions were urged to haste, by fear of my creditors, the news of my sailing having come to *Jamaica* almost as soon as myself.

We therefore set out upon our cruise, or rather piracy, without delay, of which I shall not raise your horror with any further particulars, than that we went directly into the *Spanish Main*, where we not only rifled all the ships we met, but also made descents on the coasts, and ravaged with a barbarity that was a reproach to human nature.

The tumult and hurry of this life kept my spirits in an agitation, that gave a kind of respite to my grief; and the spoil we made in our first enterprizes was so great, as to awake hopes of restoring my affairs, so as to enable me to return to *England* with all the credit wealth could give.

And could I have known when to stop, I was soon rich even beyond my most sanguine hopes: But urged by avarice, and encouraged by success, I still went on headlong to my fate, which I met in an attempt upon a town, some way up in the country, the convenience and pleasantness of whose situation had made it the residence of the richest families in the whole province; as its distance from the coast made them live in a state of perfect security, without any fortification or guard.

To this place we directed our march, one evening, and arrived at it a little after midnight, with an intention to surprize the inhabitants, and return to our ship with the spoil, before the country could rise to intercept us.

The first part of our design succeeded, and we got possession of the town without any resistance; where we committed all the outrages, and roamed about with the licentious carelessness of free-booters, under no command.

While every one thus prowled about for prey, fate guided me to an arbour in a garden, whither I followed the cries of women. I was just rushing in among them, inflamed with brutal desire, when——what was my astonish-

astonishment to see *Amelia*, in the most magnificent undress, throwing heaps of gold and jewels into a vault that opened by a trap-door into the harbour. I stood motionless at the sight for some moments, in distrust of my senses, but two such objects as she and her riches, soon awoke me from my trance, and I advanced to take possession of both, resolving not to discover myself till a more proper time; the strangeness of my dress, that was designed to strike horror, and the blood which, from scenes of cruelty and murder just committed, still reeked upon my hands and face, making it impossible that she should know me.

At the sight of me, the women all shrieked, and *Amelia*, as I advanced to lay hold on her, fell into a swoon. This embarrassed me greatly, as I had no time to lose, for our centinels just then sounded a retreat. However, I thought I would wait a little, to see if she recovered, and stooping to raise her, to give her air, I received such a blow from behind as deprived me of all sense for several hours; when, on my recovering, I found myself chained on the ground in a dungeon.

I was some time before I could believe my senses, or conceive where I was: but I soon found my fate, when the jailor coming to see if I was alive, gave me to understand, that my companions had gone off without me, and left me in the hands of a nobleman, who had himself knocked me down, as I was going to commit a rape upon his lady, while she lay in a swoon; and that I

had been thrown into this dungeon, that if I recovered, I might suffer the punishment due to the outrages we had committed both here, and in several other places of their dominions.

I wanted no further information to shew me the horrors of my situation. I saw them all, and aggravated an hundred fold, by the accusations of my own conscience, that could now trace the hand of Heaven in the justice of my punishment, which had thus overtaken me, in the presence, and on the account of *Amelia*.——I wished for death, as my only relief, and determined to seek it: But, alas! my resolution failed me; and I feared to die. In this misery I was dragged before a magistrate, who, enumerating the crimes we had been guilty of, condemned me to immediate death.——This sentence, so much milder than my fears, awoke an hope of farther mercy, to obtain which, my evil genius suggested it to me, to apply to *Amelia*, absurdly flattering myself that some sparks of her love for me might yet remain alive, or at least, her goodness take delight in shewing itself superior to my ill-treatment. Base hope that met its just reward!

I therefore waved attempting a defence of other crimes, as I was conscious, that I could not make any, but asserted my innocence, as to the particular charge of a base design upon *Amelia*, at the time I was taken, adding, that “ I had the honour of
“ being nearly related to that lady, and
“ that, if I was indulged with a few words
“ with her, in the presence of all there, I
“ hoped

“ hoped I might be found to merit a mitigation of my sentence.”

On my mentioning the name of *Amelia*, I observed one of the principal persons in the court, whom I soon understood to be her husband, kindle into rage. He did not however interrupt me; but as soon as I had concluded, he started up, and exclaimed with the most furious indignation: *Amelia thy relation! No more than angels are related to devils, by springing from the same Creator! Her virtues are dishonoured by the claim! But she shall appear and disprove the odious calumny!*——Saying which words, he instantly went for her, while an hollow murmur of surprize and detestation made the silence of the court the more dreadful, and heightened the horrors of my suspense.

But I waited not long; *Amelia* soon appeared, led in by her husband, and being seated by the judge, “ Where (said she, looking round with the serenity of conscious virtue) Where is the person who says he is related to me?”

The sight of her threw me into such a conflict of passions, that without reflecting where I was, or how necessary it might be for me to raise her compassion by some moving address, that might soften the severity of her resentment for my former treatment of her, as well as assure her of my innocence of any base design against her person, in the condition she was in when I was taken, I could not forbear crying out in *English*, for I had spoken before in *Spanish*,
in

in which I expressed myself but badly. O Amelia! *hast thou then forgot me?*

At the sound of my voice, she started and looking earnestly at me for a moment, fell upon her knees, and lifting her hands and eyes to heaven, she said aloud in *Spanish*, “O God, how signal is thy justice! “Let me, let all the world acknowledge “and adore it!”—And then rising, and turning to her husband, who stood in amazement; ‘This, my lord (said she) this ‘is the man of whom I have informed ‘you: This is that *Traffick* whose base ‘dishonesty obliged me to leave my native ‘country; and so, by that providence ‘which is able to turn the greatest misfortune into a blessing, was made the cause ‘of my present happiness with you. I abjure all kindred with him; I desire he may ‘be examined as to my story; and if he ‘can vary in the least from what I have ‘told you, let me be condemned to the severest punishment, but that of staying ‘longer in his sight, or ever seeing his ‘face more.’

On this she withdrew, without deigning a look at me: But her words had a proper effect upon my heart, and I resolved to do her justice. I therefore prevented her husband’s command, and, in as few words as possible, related the black affair with the strictest truth. When I had concluded, her lord declared, that I had not only confirmed every thing she had told him, but also added many circumstances of my own guilt, which she had omitted, or perhaps not known.

So

So complicated guilt seemed to require consideration to find out proper punishment, so I was remanded to my dungeon, but without the least encouragement to hope. The next day I was again brought into the court, where my former sentence was changed into that of being broke alive upon the wheel; and this severity was said to be in justice to *Amelia*.

When I had stood some moments stupified with fear, the judge addressed me again in these words: ‘Thou hast heard, O wretched man, the sentence due to thy crimes; but great as they have been, mercy extends her hand to thee. The virtues of the illustrious *Donna Amelia* over-balance thy guilt, and have prevailed for a mitigation of thy punishment, in gratitude to that divine providence which made thee the cause of her coming among us. Thou shalt not die, because we would not kill thy soul, before thou hast had time to repent of thy crimes; nor shalt thou suffer torture, that thy strength may not be impaired for the labour to which thy life is doomed; for this is the last day that thou shalt ever behold the light of heaven: Thou shalt immediately descend into the mines, there to work out the residue of thy unhappy days, in raising that Gold for the use of others, the insatiable desire of which was the cause of all thy guilt.’

I would have spoken, in the agony of my soul, to desire death; but I was stopped by the judge, who sternly said, that to hear a word from me would be an insult upon justice. On his saying which, I was hurried away to the moun-

mountains over us, and precipitated into this gulph, where I have now been near——

Just as he said this, I was obliged to fly away to my body, which the unhappy *Traffick* had thrown from his hand, into the vessel in which it was to be raised from the mine.

The length of this story will make you wonder, when I tell you, that the spirit of *Traffick* shewed it to me in a moment, for no longer did the gold remain in his possession; and I am always obliged to attend my body whenever it changes its master. But to understand this, you must be informed, that *we* spirits do not distinguish our existence by time, or a succession of parts, as men do; with us, there is nothing past or to come, but every thing is present in one view, so far as the natural course of causes and effects is preserved free from interruption by superior power.

C H A P. VII.

CHRYSAI pursues the history of his adventures. He explains some difficulties in his own nature. He is offered at confession to a priest. The confession and creed of a native PERUVIAN. The penance enjoined him by a Jesuit.

THERE is no crime, however black in its own nature, that does not receive an aggravation from hypocrisy; but the highest exertion of this vice is, when it makes a pretext of the best institutions, to promote the practice of the worst actions. Of this I have seen innumerable instances, in the adventures of my present state; though none so flagrant as those I shall now relate.

You may imagine I felt pleasure at emerging from that infernal abyfs into light. There was nothing remarkable in the three or four first stages I went through, my temporary owners being only the refiners and other tradesmen, who purified me from mixtures of mineral dross.

I see you are desirous to know how I could preserve my identity, when melted down with large quantities of the same metal. But you must know, that spirits have a power of expanding or contracting themselves into what dimensions they please; and that their life is not confined to any particular parts, as the heart,

heart, or head, as in man, but is diffused through their whole bodies, so that any part being separated from the rest, does not die, but that portion of spirit which was in it, at the time of such separation, serves as a life for it, and becomes a distinct spirit, to inform that distinct body, and so on, *ad infinitum*: For as it is agreed upon, that bodies can be infinitely divided, upon the same principles spirit must also: for it would be absurd and impious to deny of the superiour, any perfection which we attribute to the inferiour.—The enlarging of my body, therefore, by the addition of more matter, or the lessening it by ever so many divisions, makes no alteration in my *sameness*, so long as my consciousness remains: The former only encreasing my energy, by the accession of so much spirit as informed the additional matter, for we spirits embody ourselves entirely in commixtion, and resolve into one; as the latter separates us again into distinct beings, to animate our separated bodies.

The first absolute owner to whom I belonged, was a native *Peruvian*, who had found means to purloin a considerable quantity of gold, part of which I was, and who presented me, as a peace-offering, to an ecclesiastick at confession.

I see you have a curiosity to know my sentiments on religious matters; but I have told you before, that I am not allowed to make revelations. Sufficient on this head have been already made to man, did not his per-

perverseness distort them from their original perspicuity and perfection.

As there was something in the transactions which passed, when I was offered to this ecclesiastick, that may be new to you, I shall repeat some particulars of them.

You must have heard of the authority of the clergy, in all the countries which profess the religion of the *Roman pontiff*, and particularly those under the *Spanish* monarchy. Of all the several orders which compose this political *hierarchy*, those who call themselves THE COMPANIONS OF THEIR GOD, have acquired the greatest power.

Though this title may appear profanely great to you, yet they seem to support it by the share which they assume, in some of his most sacred prerogatives.

To a reverend father of this order, was I presented, on the festival called *Easter*. He was seated in a retired chamber of his temple, in the exercise of one of the functions of the deity, *bearing, and punishing, or forgiving sins*, according to his sovereign pleasure. It is not possible to give you *here* an idea of the solemnity of this ceremony, in a country where all religion is evaporated into shew. Be it sufficient to say, that the pageantry was such a mockery of the deity, as no other of his creatures, but *man*, would dare to commit.—The man who brought me into this mysterious fane, advanced with fear and trembling to the *apparent deity* of the place, and kneeling before him, confessed himself guilty of several heinous crimes, in the admission of involuntary thoughts and
indulgence

indulgence of the appetites of nature, contrary to the rules laid down for him by his spiritual guide.—But this will be best explained by instances. The first crime which the penitent revealed, was having tasted a morsel of flesh on a day, when it was prohibited. The father, with a severe frown told him, ‘that was a great sin, which he ‘ must atone for, by working two days for ‘ the church, without hire, and abstaining ‘ from flesh, at the same time, though it was ‘ generally allowed.’

He next confessed that he had beaten a dog belonging to a priest, which had broke into his hut, and eaten the pottage prepared for him, by which means he had been obliged to go to sleep without his supper. At this, the priest knitting his brow into tenfold austerity, exclaimed, ‘this is rebellion! ‘ rebellion against your God! Do you not ‘ know, that the dog of an ecclesiastick, is ‘ above the greatest (even white) layman, ‘ much more a wicked native! you must ‘ make amends!—you must!—or’—The tone and gesture with which he spoke these words, so terrified the trembling wretch, that he instantly put his hand into his bosom, and pulling *me* out, presented me, to make his peace. As soon as *I* appeared, the priest’s features softened, the tone of his voice fell, and receiving me, with a gracious smile, ‘You have not said (says he) that ‘ the master of the dog was a Jesuit! thy ‘ crime, therefore, though great, may be ‘ forgiven! but beware for the future, and ‘ remember, that the world, and all in it, ‘ belongs

‘ belongs to us; and that to be guilty of
‘ the least disobedience, even in thought,
‘ is treason, and deserves the severest pu-
‘ nishment. Proceed! unburthen your con-
‘ science! I know your thoughts, but would
‘ have you speak them, that I may prove
‘ your sincerity. Proceed! I am in haste!’

The penitent then went on—‘ O father, be
‘ merciful and I will confess all! Return-
‘ ing from my labour one evening late, I
‘ found my door fastened, and no one an-
‘ swering when I called, I burst it in,
‘ when behold, I saw father *Ignatius* in the
‘ very act of carnality with my beloved
‘ wife *Mostaw*! I was amazed! and though
‘ fear prevented my striking him, I could
‘ not forbear thinking in my heart, that
‘ he who does those things, can be no
‘ god, he must be only *man*; and I cursed
‘ him in the bitterness of my soul; but he
‘ was drunk with wine, and did not hear
‘ me.’

‘ Wretch! devil! heretick! (exclaimed
‘ the father in a rage) thou intrude upon
‘ the privacy of a *Jesuit*! thou say, he was
‘ but a *man*! thou *think*, he could not know
‘ thy very thoughts, because he had drank
‘ wine! audacious slave! Art not thou, and
‘ thy wife his? had he not a right to use
‘ his own? was it not an honour to thee,
‘ ungrateful wretch? and darest thou to
‘ *think a Jesuit is but a man*? But it is
‘ enough; the inquisition shall teach thee
‘ faith and obedience; the inquisition——’

At

At that tremendous word, the wretch, half dead with fear, fell at his feet, crying out, ' O father, O God, O king, forgive, forgive! (and pulling out of his bosom the rest of his gold) take this, O lord, from your poor slave, and forgive.—Take this, which I got at the peril of my life, and saved to buy the liberty of my dear child, whom my master took from me; take it, and forgive; let her still be a slave; let me never see her more! But O the inquisition! O forgive, forgive!'

The priest, mollified at the sight of the gold, replied, ' Thou knowest my compassion, but thou abusest it, and thy crimes are almost too great for mercy. In hope thou wilt amend, and transgress so no more, I will forgive thee now: but thou must be punished: Hast thou no more gold?'——' O, father, no more, no more! and this I saved to redeem my dear child: O let me get my child! *What! insolent! dost thou presume to capitulate? thou shalt be punished: Instead of getting back thy daughter, thou shalt bring me thy son, whom I saw yesterday, when I bade thee come to confession. The boy I blessed, and kissed upon my knee.*'——' O father, father, take all the gold, and let my daughter remain: But spare my son; he is too young, O father, too young for thee.'——' *The inquisition!*'——O take him, father, take him, take all, but spare me; I fly to bring my child to thee; O spare me from the inquisition!'——' *'Tis well; be comforted; thy sins shall be forgiven;*

‘ given ; perhaps, if thou behavest well, thy
‘ son may also be restored. I fear thou hast
‘ forgotten thy Christian faith ; let me hear
‘ thee repeat thy creed.’—The man, somewhat
reassured, to hear that he should escape the
inquisition, and comforted with the hope of
having his son restored, began thus——‘ I
‘ believe that God made the world, and all
‘ things in it, for my lords THE JESUITS ;
‘ and that I must worship him, by obeying
‘ them, and saying the prayers they direct
‘ me to the saints, and the blessed virgin,
‘ the mother of God, and above all, to the
‘ great saint IGNATIUS LOYOLA. But if
‘ I disobey their commands in any thing,
‘ or repine at their service, or think, that I
‘ must obey the *viceroi* before them, I shall,
‘ be burned to death in the inquisition *here*
‘ and the great devil will burn me for ever,
‘ after I am dead.’——‘ Well, son, re-
‘ member and practise thy creed, and thy sins
‘ shall be forgiven thee : Go and bring the
‘ boy when it is dark.’

CHAP. VIII.

The holy father's tenderness to another penitent, who had ravished, murdered, and robbed his own brother's wife. He accepts the spoils as a recompence to the church. He hints a method of preventing the danger of his brother's resentment, and dismisses him with ghostly advice.

THE severity with which the Jesuit required satisfaction for the imaginary faults of the poor *Peruvian*, may, perhaps, lead you to think, that his zeal would be inexorable to real crimes; but the following account will shew you, that it was no such thing, and that he looked upon nothing as a crime, which was not detrimental to the power, or temporal interest, of his society.—The next penitent who approached the *mercy-seat*, was a commander in the army. He advanced with a military intrepidity, and kneeling down in form, Father (said he) I have a long reckoning to make, and some of the articles are rather heavy. My son (replied the priest) you have had experience of the indulgence of the church, and that no crimes are too black for her mercy, on *proper* penitence. Proceed then, and open your wounds to your physician; nor fear the efficacy of his medicines.

‘ You

‘ You know then, Father (said the penitent) that I have long burned with a passion for the wife of my brother the judge. It was the subject of my last confession.’—I remember it right well (replied the father) and you may remember also what ghostly, yet comfortable advice I gave you, to strive against and suppress it, if you could.’
——‘ True, father ; but I told you then, that I knew it would be in vain for me to strive, as I was resolved to enjoy her, though at the hazard of my life.’——‘ But, son, did I not comfort you, by saying, that if you found it in vain to strive, and could not live without her, as life was the greatest good, in this world, it was just that you should preserve yours, by obtaining what you were so violently set upon, but always to be careful that you conducted matters so, as not to give offence by your success.’——
‘ Ah ! but father, that was not in my power : She was deaf to all my entreaties ; and that threw me into such despair, that, not able to wait any longer, I have this very morning had recourse to force.’——‘ That was really bad, if it could have been avoided ; but, as you would not have forced her, if she would have complied willingly, that alters the case very much in your favour, and perhaps she put you to that trouble, only to save the appearance of her own virtue, and if so, you have both acted right, and there is no harm done, provided the affair is not disclosed.’

‘ O,

48 CHRYSA L: Or the

‘ O, father, that is the thing; I was afraid
 ‘ of that; and as her husband had always
 ‘ been a father to me, and all my future
 ‘ hopes depended on him, I so greatly dread-
 ‘ ed her telling him, that, to prevent it, as
 ‘ soon as I had enjoyed her, I cut her
 ‘ throat.’

‘ Murder! O fie; it is an heinous crime:
 ‘ blood calls for blood: your case is terri-
 ‘ ble.’—‘ I feared so, father; but I depend-
 ‘ ed on your tenderness; and as I did not
 ‘ think it reasonable, that I should have all
 ‘ the pleasure of the crime, and you only the
 ‘ trouble of forgiving, I stripped her of
 ‘ *these* jewels, which give me leave to offer
 ‘ you.’

‘ You are a prudent man, my son; I
 ‘ thought you would act with discretion. I
 ‘ accept the jewels, as a peace-offering to the
 ‘ *holy church*, for your sins; and as the value
 ‘ of them (indeed they are costly gems) proves
 ‘ the sincerity of your repentance, I shall not
 ‘ hesitate to pronounce your sins forgiven.

‘ For though adultery is a great sin, and,
 ‘ in this case, aggravated by rape and in-
 ‘ cest, yet, as you say, it was not because
 ‘ she was the wife of another man, and es-
 ‘ pecially your brother, that you desired
 ‘ her, but merely as she was a beautiful
 ‘ woman, therefore the adultery and incest
 ‘ come in but by *accident*; and then, as you
 ‘ ravished her only because she would not
 ‘ comply, the sin of the rape is certainly
 ‘ her’s, as I said before; for, if I force a man
 ‘ to commit a crime, I am guilty of that
 ‘ crime,

‘ crime, and not he: And again, though
‘ murder is a most heinous sin, yet as you
‘ killed her, not merely to indulge a mur-
‘ derous intent, but to prevent her disco-
‘ vering your having forced her, and so
‘ ruining you, the intention quite alters the
‘ nature of the fact and makes it but self-
‘ preservation, which is the first law of na-
‘ ture. And lastly, as you took the jewels,
‘ not with a design to rob her, but to offer
‘ them to the *church*, and accordingly have
‘ brought them, that conclusion sanctifies
‘ the whole action, and makes your peace
‘ with heaven.

‘ For know, my son, that crimes which
‘ respect *man only*, as in your case, rape,
‘ adultery, incest, murder, and robbery,
‘ though bad in themselves, ’tis true, yet are
‘ a pleasure to the church to forgive, to
‘ a faithful and penitent son, *who believes,*
‘ *all her doctrines, and pays due obedience to*
‘ *her clergy, the vicegerents of God on earth,*
‘ *the receivers of her revenues, and dispensers*
‘ *of her favours, and vengeance; to whom all*
‘ *earthly power is subservient, who are the*
‘ *kings of kings, and lords of the world.*’——
‘ This, my son, is the doctrine of our holy
‘ church, as delivered by the most learned
‘ fathers of our order, in the belief of which
‘ you will be safe from all the powers of
‘ hell: do what you will, while you pay faith
‘ and obedience to the church, she will par-
‘ don all your sins.’——

When he had concluded his instructions,
with this pious exhortation, and sealed his
absolution with a blessing, the purified saint

arose, and said, ‘ Holy father, thou hast
 ‘ set my soul at ease, with regard to *here-*
 ‘ *after*, but still I fear for this world. It
 ‘ unfortunately happened, that I was seen in
 ‘ the fact by a servant who escaped me, or I
 ‘ should have charmed her silence too; and
 ‘ now I apprehend she will inform my bro-
 ‘ ther.’—‘ This is unlucky, most unlucky
 ‘ (replied the priest) I know not what to
 ‘ advise; I am utterly at a loss: If you
 ‘ should prevent her malice, and accuse her
 ‘ of the fact.’—‘ O, but father, the rape;
 ‘ there may be appearances of that, which
 ‘ would disprove my charge against a wo-
 ‘ man.’—‘ Mistake me not, my son, I did
 ‘ not advise any such thing! heaven forbid
 ‘ that I should advise to bear false wit-
 ‘ ness against an innocent life; I am utterly
 ‘ at a loss.’ — ‘ Suppose, father, I should
 ‘ still strive to prevent my fears, by taking
 ‘ off my brother, as I cannot find her:
 ‘ this is the only way to make me easy; ha,
 ‘ father; is not that an happy thought; I
 ‘ wish it had occurred sooner, and then I
 ‘ should have given you but the one trou-
 ‘ ble.’—‘ Why, truly, son, the dead can
 ‘ neither make nor receive discoveries; and
 ‘ self-preservation will certainly justify any
 ‘ thing, as I have said before: but I must
 ‘ not advise you, your own genius is ready,
 ‘ and can improve an hint; I must know
 ‘ nothing, till the affair is done: all I can
 ‘ say, is, that work unfinished had better ne-
 ‘ ver have been begun.

‘ Adieu,

‘ Adieu, my son, my blessing waits on all
‘ your undertakings. But be sure to hold the
‘ indulgent mercy of the church in grateful
‘ remembrance.’

The officer went away, happy in having lightened the burthen that was upon his conscience, and big with the pious project of making the murder of his brother the first-fruits of his regeneration. He was the last *penitent* of that morning, and as soon as he was gone, his ghostly director retired to mortify his appetites in the refectory of the convent.

C H A P. IX.

The father's rage on hearing that his penitent had secreted some of the jewels. The officer is pursued by his brother to the convent, whither he flies for sanctuary. His reception from the father, and the terms of their reconciliation. The father sends away the judge in a fright. The officer is received into the society.

THE honours of this world may be said to be placed upon an hill, the ascent to which is through different paths, the one, which virtue leads through, difficult and long, but certain; the other short and easy, but dangerous and deceitful, yet still by much the most frequented, vice, the guide through it, using all her allurements to decoy unwary adventurers, and magnifying every instance

of success so highly, as to make the numberless miscarriages overlooked.

The great value of the jewels, which the officer had presented to my master, took up so much of his thoughts, that as soon as he had finished his collation, he retired to his cell, to meditate on the farther advantages he might make of this affair.

While he was in this pleasing employment, another ecclesiastick entered, to acquaint him of the murder and robbery of the judge's wife, and among other particulars of the story, said, that her crucifix, thought to be the richest in *lay possession* in all *Peru*, had been taken from her.—

‘ That crucifix !’ (exclaimed my master, starting, for he knew it well, and had long paid his devotions to it, and now to be *cheated* thus of it, when he thought it so *justly* his due, provoked him almost to madness) ‘ That crucifix taken too ! Damn-
‘ ed ! murderous ! deceitful villain ! vil-
‘ lain, on all sides ! But I will be re-
‘ venged !’—

The other priest understood not what he meant, and was just going to enquire, when in rushed the captain, all aghast. ‘ O fa-
‘ ther ! father ! (said he, as soon as he could
‘ speak) sanctuary ! sanctuary ! my brother
‘ is at the gate, with all the officers of jus-
‘ tice !’—At this the father grinn’d an in-
sulting smile, and beckoning to the other
priest to withdraw, ‘ Wretch (said he) thou
‘ sacrilegious wretch ! how could’st thou dare
‘ to enter these holy walls, violated by thy
‘ guilt ?’

‘guilt? Did’st thou not fear the fate of
‘*Ananias and Sapphira*?—As thou did’st
‘deceive me with thy feigned peni-
‘tence, and hast lied to the Lord, in con-
‘cealing what thou had’st most justly de-
‘voted to him, I revoke the absolution I
‘gave thee, and will deliver thee to justice,
‘to receive the punishment due to thy
‘crimes. These holy walls afford no sanc-
‘tuary to sacrilege!’

The poor criminal stood confounded at re-
proaches, which he dared not interrupt,
though he could not comprehend the cause
or meaning of them. At length, when the
priest had exclaimed himself out of breath,
the trembling wretch replied, ‘O father!
‘what can have kindled thy wrath a-
‘gainst me? I have committed no crime,
‘since thy absolution purged my soul! I
‘was only going towards my brother’s
‘house, when I met him, and the servant
‘with him, with all the officers of justice,
‘in search of me, on which I fled directly to
‘you for sanctuary.’ ‘I grant no sanctuary
‘to sacrilege.’—‘What sacrilege, O fa-
‘ther?’—‘The crucifix, deceitful wretch!
‘Where is thy sister’s crucifix? Hast thou
‘not defrauded the church of her due?
‘Didst thou not say, that thou tookedst
‘thy sister’s jewels, only to make a peace-
‘offering for thy sins, and then to secrete,
‘thus, the most valuable part of them!
‘*This is defrauding the labourer of his hire!*
‘This is defrauding the church of her rites,
‘without making the proper compensation!
‘And what can be greater sacrilege?’

Just at these words, a knocking at the gate awoke the *penitent* from his amaze, and made him apprehend that he had not a minute to lose; he therefore, with the readiest presence of mind replied, —— ‘ The
 ‘ crucifix, father! you astonish me! did I
 ‘ not give it to you?’ —— And then putting his hand into his bosom, and pulling it out with a look of surprize, he reached it to him. — ‘ Forgive, O father (said he) the crime
 ‘ of inadvertency; I meant not to have kept
 ‘ it from you, but only overlooked it, in my
 ‘ confusion! accept it! accept all I am master of, and save my life.’

‘ Son (replied the father, softening his voice, and taking the crucifix) I am glad
 ‘ thou wast not *intentionally* guilty of so unpardonable an offence! I believe, and accept thy excuse. Be comforted, therefore, my son, thy sins are forgiven.’ ‘ O
 ‘ but father, the officers of justice.’ ——
 ‘ What officers! what justice dares attempt
 ‘ to shew her face within these walls? Thou
 ‘ art *my* penitent, I have absolved thee, and
 ‘ I will defend thee. Sit down, and compose thy spirits, while I repel this bold intrusion, on the peace and privilege of these
 ‘ holy walls.’

Saying thus, the father went to the gate of the convent where stood the judge, displaying the guilt of the fugitive to the holy fathers, to engage them to refuse him sanctuary, and give him up to justice. But my master soon stopped him. ‘ Cease (said he,
 ‘ with a low voice, and downcast meditative
 ‘ look)

‘ look) disturb not the peace of these holy
‘ walls. The man you see is *my* penitent.
‘ He has made satisfaction to the church,
‘ and reconciled himself to heaven. I come
‘ this moment from giving him the seal of
‘ absolution. Disturb not the raptures of
‘ his soul, that is now joining with the an-
‘ gelick choirs, in the hymns of joy raised
‘ in heaven for his repentance. Depart in
‘ peace.’

‘ How father (exclaimed the judge) can
‘ a wretch, guilty of such crimes, so soon
‘ have made his peace! He has deceived
‘ you, father; he has not told you half his
‘ guilt: rape, incest, adultery, and murder!
‘ Can *they* be thus forgiven? So easy par-
‘ dons but encourage vice.’—‘ And who art
‘ thou, presumptuous man! (replied the fa-
‘ ther, raising his voice, and putting on an
‘ air of authority) and who art thou, that
‘ darest thus to call the power of God’s
‘ holy church in question? What faith, or
‘ rather what heresy has taught thee this
‘ presumption? Dost thou measure the di-
‘ vine authority of our unerring tribunal
‘ by the weak rules of thy blind law? Are
‘ not the keys of heaven ours; and have
‘ we not the power to loose as well as bind?
‘ But I shall not argue more with thee *here*;
‘ there is a tribunal proper for such *opinions*
‘ as thine; there try if thy knowledge of the
‘ laws will justify thy heresies; there thou art
‘ not judge.’

The first mention of heresy had struck
such a terror into the heart of the poor
judge, that he was for some moments un-

able to reply. At last, recollecting himself a little ‘ I submit, O father, (said he) I am
 ‘ no heretick; I have no *opinions* but what
 ‘ I learn from the holy church whose power
 ‘ I acknowledge in all its divine plenitude.’
 — ‘ ’Tis well; (replied the priest) ’tis well;
 ‘ depart in peace, and to-morrow I will visit
 ‘ thee and examine the state of thy con-
 ‘ science.’

The judge then making a profound reverence, withdrew without a murmur, and the triumphant father returned to his penitent. ‘ My son (said he) thine enemies are de-
 ‘ feated. Thy rest is secure *here*. But such
 ‘ is their power, and so strong the general
 ‘ abhorrence that pursues thy *late* guilt,
 ‘ that it will not be safe for thee ever to
 ‘ leave this sanctuary.’— ‘ O father, must I
 ‘ be confined for ever here?’— ‘ I said not so,
 ‘ my son: there is a way for thee to go in
 ‘ triumph out above the power of thy pre-
 ‘ sent persecutors.’— ‘ O name it, father.’
 ‘ Take our vows. Heaven has blessed thee
 ‘ with a fertile genius, and steel’d thy soul
 ‘ with fortitude. These talents must not
 ‘ be buried, an account will be required
 ‘ of them; and where can they be put to
 ‘ proper use, except in the service of the do-
 ‘ nor, in his church; there they will raise
 ‘ thee to that rank and power, which thou
 ‘ seest us enjoy. I see thou yieldest. Re-
 ‘ sist not the motions of the holy spirit. I
 ‘ receive thee into the fold. I salute thee,
 ‘ brother. From this moment of thine
 ‘ election may’st thou date thy entrance
 ‘ into

‘ into the highest honours of this world.
 ‘ The day approaches, when thy military
 ‘ knowledge and valour may also be called in-
 ‘ to practice. Great events are ripening in
 ‘ the womb of time!’——‘ I yield, O fa-
 ‘ ther, (replied the penitent) I receive thine
 ‘ offer with due submission and respect. And
 ‘ from this moment dedicate my valour, skill
 ‘ and every power of my soul and body, to
 ‘ the implicit service of thine holy order.’——
 ‘ It is the hand of heaven that leads thee, no
 ‘ longer son, but brother. I will go and ac-
 ‘ quaint our brethren with thy *miraculous*
 ‘ conversion and election. Thou hast ro
 ‘ more to do but to make thy will, and be-
 ‘ queath all thy wealth to our order.’——
 ‘ *Bequeath*, my father, must I die?’——
 ‘ But, to the world, brother, to live with us’.
 ——‘ But I have nothing to bequeath.’——
 ‘ Leave that to us. Do you only give all your
 ‘ fortune, in the hands of your brother, to
 ‘ our society, in consequence of your admissi-
 ‘ on; and let us find that fortune. I go. The
 ‘ bell rings for *vespers*. I shall send our nota-
 ‘ ry to you; and when that is done, we will
 ‘ restore our exhausted spirits with a slight re-
 ‘ past in the refectory, where I will introduce
 ‘ thee to our brethren.’

In a word, all things were executed, and
 the new brother admitted in proper time into
 the order, of which he has since risen to be
 one of the brightest ornaments. And the
 judge, to avoid the imputation of heresy,
 which his *implied* doubt of the church’s sanc-
 tuary had given my master the hint of, was

glad to pay half his wealth to the society, as the fortune of his pious brother.

Soon after this affair was thus happily completed, my master, that he might openly shew his adoration of *me* to the world, had me made into a crucifix, in which shape I was fastened to his *rosary*, and there publickly received that adoration from the knee, which before was paid me only in the heart.

———— A repetition of all the occurrences I saw in the service of this master were unnecessary, as the two I have related give a general idea of them, all tending to the gratification of his ruling passions of revenge, lust, and avarice, with the variation only of accidental circumstances, according to the difference of their objects.

CH A P. X.

CHRYSAI *changes his service, and embarks for Europe in an English man of war. The cause and manner of his coming that way. The occurrences of his passage. On his arrival in England he is sent by his master to settle some mistakes in the voyage.*

I Was heartily sick of such a scene, when the time came for sending me into these parts of the world, where scarcity enhances my value, and makes my power more extensive. There being a war between *Spain* and *England* at that time, about a liberty of cutting

cutting sticks upon a desert shore, it was necessary to secure a safe passage for the treasure, by establishing a right understanding with the commander of an *English* man of war, which was cruizing in those seas. It fell to my lot to go on this errand in the shape of a *doubloon*, into which I was cast, to save the profanation which a crucifix must suffer in the hands of hereticks.

There was some little address requisite to conduct this affair with the captain, in such a manner as to keep it secret from his officers, to gain all of whom would have been too expensive, beside that he would never trust his *sacred* honour to the *fidelity* of so many. But this was readily adjusted. The refinements of modern politeness having softened the natural ferocity of a state of war, and admitting an intercourse of courtesy between parties who profess to seek each other's destruction, the *Spanish* governor sent out a boat, with his compliments to the *English* captain, with a large supply of fresh provisions, fruit, wine, &c.

This necessarily produced a return of civility from the well-bred captain; and in this intercourse were the terms of his connivance settled, as the seal of which I was delivered to him, among a very large number of my fellows, who honourably punctual to his promise, at the appointed time, sailed away from that nation, *in quest of some ships of the enemy's which he expected to meet elsewhere*, and did not return till the *Spanish* treasure was beyond his reach.

As

As this was a compliment of great consequence to the *Spaniards*, the captain had been so handsomely considered for it, that his desires were satisfied, and he only wished to be safe at home, to enjoy the wealth he had so happily acquired. Often would he take me out, for the beauty of my new impression had struck his eye, and gained me the honour of being kept in his purse; often, I say, would he take me out of his purse, and gazing on me till his eyes watered, ‘O thou end of all my toils and dangers! (would he say) thou crown of all my hopes! now I have obtained thee I am content! Let others seek that phantom glory, I have in thee the more solid reward, for which I always fought, nor shall any thing tempt me to hazard being separated from thee.’ A resolution which he had an opportunity of shewing in all its strength a few days after, when a ship appeared which he thought to be a *Spanish* man of war.

As ours was a ship of force, and all the officers (except the captain now) were very poor; and as the *Spanish* ships are always richly laden with treasure in those seas, the crew was in the highest spirits at this sight, and made every thing ready to attack her, with the most eager alacrity. But the case was quite different with the captain. He was now as rich as he desired, and dreaded the loss of that wealth which he had so long laboured for. He, therefore, retired into his cabin, while the lieutenants were *clearing ship*, and taking me out of his purse, with a look of tenderness that brought

brought the tears into his eyes, ‘ And, shall
‘ I hazard the loss of thee, (he cried) the ob-
‘ ject, the reward of a life of toil and dan-
‘ ger ? shall I sacrifice the only real good of
‘ life, to that chimera, honour ? to that bub-
‘ ble lighter than air, and more variable than
‘ the wind, the interest of my country ?
‘ What is honour without wealth ? what is a
‘ country to him who had nothing in it ? let
‘ the poor fight for money, I have enough :
‘ let the ambitious fight for glory, I despise
‘ the empty name. Let those who have a
‘ property in their country fight for it, I have
‘ none, nor can have, nor any of its blessings,
‘ without thee ; and therefore will not ven-
‘ ture thy loss for any such vain considerati-
‘ ons.’

As soon as he had formed this prudent re-
solution, he clasped *me* to his heart, kissed *me*,
and returned *me* into his purse, just as the
lieutenant came in, to tell him, they could
now *make* the ship, which must be vastly
rich, she was so deep in the water. My ma-
ster made no reply, but taking a telescope in
his hand, he went upon the quarter-deck, and
viewing her for some time, with great ap-
parent earnestness, ‘ You are all mistaken
‘ (said he) in that ship ! rich indeed ! and so
‘ she may remain for us. That ship is a first-
‘ rate man of war by her size : and as for
‘ her depth in the water, she is only brought
‘ down by her guns which are fifty-two poun-
‘ ders at least. *Put about* the ship, and make
‘ all sail possible from her. I am answerable
‘ for his majesty’s ship, committed to my
‘ care,

‘ care, and will not sacrifice her against such
 ‘ odds. Her weight of metal would blow
 ‘ us out of the water. Beside, I have a
 ‘ packet on board, and must not go out of
 ‘ my way: *about ship*, and away directly, I
 ‘ say.’

The officers stood aghast at this speech, that disappointed all their golden hopes. They urged, they beseeched, they remonstrated, that it was impossible she could be what he said: they insisted that the colour of her sails, and the heaviness of her going, proved her to be a ship of trade that had been long at sea; and as for her bulk, it only encouraged them to hope she would prove the better prize, as all the ships that carry the treasure are very large; that they had observed they wronged her so much, they could go round her if they pleased; and begged only that they might be permitted to take a nearer view of her, which they were confident would prove her to be what they said. They alledged the opportunity of making all their fortunes; the honour, the interest of their country. They begged, swore, stormed, and wept; but all in vain. The captain had taken his resolution; and would vouchsafe no other answer than a repetition of what he had said before, ‘ that *he* was accountable for
 ‘ his majesty’s ship, and would not hazard
 ‘ her, to gratify them: beside, the delay of
 ‘ the packet he had on board, might be of
 ‘ worse consequence than the taking of such
 ‘ a ship, should she even be what they said,
 ‘ though he was *certain* to the contrary,
 ‘ would

‘ would make amends for. And that, as to
‘ going nearer to her, the length of her
‘ guns would enable them to drive every
‘ shot through and through his ship, at a dis-
‘ tance that his could never reach her from ;
‘ though if they should be mad enough to
‘ engage her, his *small* shot could never
‘ pierce such mountains of timber as her sides
‘ were barricadoed with.’ And so, as his
power was absolute, they were obliged to sub-
mit, and *off he steer’d*.

It is impossible to describe the distraction which this affair threw our ship into. The officers acted all the inconsistent outrages of madness. The men chewed the *quid*, damned their eyes and limbs for their bad luck, and went to work as usual ; while several poor sick wretches, whose spirits had been so raised by the hopes of such a prize, that they had forgot their complaints, and exerted all their strength, to assist in the engagement, now sunk under the weight of the disappointment, and crawled back, many of them to die in their hammocks.

But the captain had carried his point, and regarded nothing else : though indeed he was somewhat disconcerted a few days after, when he learned from another ship, that she really was a register ship of immense value, and so weakened by hard weather and sickness, that she could not have attempted any resistance, but had prepared to *strike* the moment she saw us. This information added such fuel to the rage that inflamed the officers before, that all intercourse be-
tween

tween them and their captain was intirely broke of, so that *I* became his sole companion.

This lasted all the while we were at a distance from *England*, but as we drew near home, the captain's stiffness began to bend, and he made several advances to a reconciliation and general amnesty, as he could not but feel some apprehensions for his conduct from his superiors. But all was in vain. The thought of returning in poverty, instead of that wealth which he had disappointed them of, kept up their resentments, and they determined to complain, if only for the satisfaction of revenge.

This convinced my master, that methods must be taken to obviate their attempts, or he might run a greater hazard at home than he intended to avoid abroad. He therefore prudently concluded, that the same argument which had been so powerful with himself, would be the most effectual to vindicate what he had done with others, and that it would be better to share the spoil, than risk the loss of all.

For this intent, as soon as he arrived in *England*, he took *me* from his purse once more, and looking earnestly at me for some moments, ' We must part (said he, with a sigh) we must part ! but I hope to good purpose. Thou only wast the cause of that conduct which now gives me fear ; exert therefore thy influence equally, where I now send thee, and thou wilt excuse my fault, if it is one.' Tears, at
the

the thought of losing me, here choaked his utterance. He gave me a last kiss, and sent me directly away, in company with a considerable number more, to mediate his peace.

C H A P. XI.

The good consequences of a right understanding between certain persons. CHRYSAL'S reflections on his first seeing the publick offices in London. His master visits a gentleman, who, in the vehemence of his rage against certain abuses, hits himself a violent slap on the face. The necessity of decency, and the methods of supporting it, instanced in the history of a pretty fellow.

AS the delicate nature of this transaction required some address, he entrusted the management of it to his purser, who had convinced him, by many instances, of his sagacity in the methods of obtaining an influence over the great.

As soon as my new master arrived in London, his first care was to execute the commission for which *we* had been given to him ; but the person, to whom his application was to be made, happening to be out of town for a few days, that he might not lose any time, he proceeded to settle some affairs of his own ; in the course of which, I had an opportunity of seeing into some part of the secrets of his mysterious business.

The

The professed motive for his coming to town, was to settle his own, and pass his captain's accounts, between which there was a connection not necessary to be known to any other ; for though my late master did not think it consistent with his dignity to be too familiar with his officers, and generally slighted their opinion, if only to shew his own superiority and keep them at a proper distance, with him and his purser the case was quite otherwise, the best understanding always subsisting between them, and every affair being concerted with the greatest harmony, to their mutual advantage : an agreement, which beside the comfort and convenience of it to themselves, had this happy influence over the rest of the ship's company, that it kept them, if not easy, at least quiet, from all murmurings, and complaints of bad provisions, short weights, and such like *imaginary* grievances, which the restless temper of seamen is too apt to make the cause of much trouble to the purser, and disturbance to the captain, when these happen not to agree between themselves. But as the contrary was the case here, their common interest animated the assiduity of my master, and made him go directly to the several offices and contractors, with whom his business lay, to prepare every thing in proper order for publick inspection.

On my first going to these publick offices, every thing gave me pleasure. There was such an appearance of regularity in all the proceedings, of ease and affluence in the officers, that I could not help saying to myself,
‘ happy

‘ happy state, whose meanest servants are
 ‘ gentlemen ! whose business is reduced to a
 ‘ system, above danger of confusion or a-
 ‘ buse !’ But a nearer view shewed things in
 another light. The first person my master
 went to, was the gentleman who supplied
 him with those kinds of cloathing for the
 seamen, which are by these merry poor fel-
 lows emphatically called *slops*. As he was
 just going to dinner, my master accepted of his
 invitation, and sat down with him. A round
 or two of loyal toasts, to the success of the
 navy, and continuance of the war, having
 washed down their fare, and refreshed their
 spirits after the fatigue of a full meal, they
 proceeded to business. ‘ I am come, Sir,
 ‘ (said my master) to settle the accompt of
 ‘ the last cruize. Here it is : you see most
 ‘ of the articles have gone off pretty well :
 ‘ but I must tell you, that you are more
 ‘ obliged to some of your friends for that,
 ‘ than you are aware of perhaps ; for if I
 ‘ had not prevailed on the captain, to let
 ‘ the ale-house keepers and gin-women
 ‘ come on board, and keep the slop-sellers
 ‘ of, when the men received their pay,
 ‘ on going out, you would have had but a
 ‘ blank list of it. But, by this management,
 ‘ the fellows spent all their money in drink,
 ‘ and then necessity drove them to me for
 ‘ cloaths’

‘ Here is to the captain’s good health
 ‘ (answered the other) and that I may soon
 ‘ see him at the head of the navy : I am
 ‘ very much obliged to you and him, and
 ‘ shall consider your friendship properly.
 ‘ But

' But is there no way of preventing those
 ' pedlars from intruding thus upon us? I
 ' am resolved I will try: I believe I can
 ' make an interest, (you understand me)
 ' that will procure me an order to exclude
 ' them: at least, if I cannot do that, I
 ' will insist on raising my terms; for every
 ' branch of business is now so loaded with
 ' presents and perquisites, that there is
 ' scarce any thing to be got. A man who
 ' goes to a public office, to receive money,
 ' runs the gauntlet through so many of
 ' them, that if he does not make up his
 ' accompts, in a very masterly manner in-
 ' deed, he will have but little to shew, for
 ' his pains, in the end.'—— ' Very true,
 ' (replied my master) I have had experience
 ' of what you say, this very morning.
 ' You know it is some years since I have
 ' been in town before: I was therefore
 ' quite surprized at the gay appearance of
 ' every clerk, in the offices. Our mid-
 ' shipmen, on the paying off of a ship, are
 ' nothing to them: So! thought I to my-
 ' self: this is very well! Such fine gentle-
 ' men as these will never stoop to take the
 ' little perquisites which their shabby pre-
 ' decessors were so eager for: They can-
 ' not want them. Accordingly, as soon
 ' as I had done my business, I was prepa-
 ' ring to make an handsome speech, and
 ' a leg, and so walk off; but I was soon
 ' undeceived; and found, to my no small
 ' astonishment, that if the case was altered,
 ' it was no way for the better, for me; the
 ' present fine gentlemen being to the full
 ' as

‘ as rapacious as the former poor fellows, and
‘ with this addition to the evil, that their ex-
‘ pectations were raised, in proportion to their
‘ appearance, so that they must have a crown,
‘ where the others were satisfied with a shil-
‘ ling.’

‘ And how can it be otherwise (returned
‘ the other) while the principals set them such
‘ an example of extravagance, and inforce
‘ obedience to it in the manner they do: for
‘ though their own exorbitant salaries enable
‘ them to live with the luxury of aldermen
‘ at home, and make the appearance of cour-
‘ tiers abroad, how can they think, that their
‘ hackney underlings shall be able to change
‘ their dress, with the court, and appear with
‘ all the precise foppery of pretty fellows, if
‘ they have not clandestine ways of getting
‘ money: and that this is the case, I can give
‘ you an instance not to be contradicted.

‘ Perhaps you may remember a little boy,
‘ that ran about the house here, when you
‘ were in Town last. His mother was ser-
‘ vant to my first wife: you cannot forget
‘ black-ey’d Nan: who was the father is no-
‘ thing to my story, but I took care of the
‘ boy. When he grew up, I thought the
‘ best thing I could do for him, was to get
‘ him into one of the public offices, for he
‘ was too soft for my own business, and this
‘ I imagined would sharpen him, and 50*l.* a
‘ year keep him from being an expence
‘ to me. Accordingly, I got him admitted
‘ as an additional clerk, in this busy time;
‘ and that his appearance should not shame
‘ my recommendation, I added a London-
‘ made

‘ made suit to his country wardrobe, which I
 ‘ thought good enough for him, to wear eve-
 ‘ ry day.

‘ Well; thus equipped, to the office he
 ‘ went, as good-looking a lad as ever came
 ‘ from a 10 *l.* a year academy in Yorkshire,
 ‘ which had been the height of his educati-
 ‘ on. But I soon found that I had been out
 ‘ in my reckoning; for going with him to in-
 ‘ troduce him to the head-clerk, whom I
 ‘ had before spoke properly to, in his behalf,
 ‘ I found the whole office in deep mourning,
 ‘ which, as it had been ordered only for the
 ‘ court, and was to hold but for a fortnight
 ‘ longer, I had never thought of dressing him
 ‘ in; but I soon found that I had not a pro-
 ‘ per opinion of the consequence of the place.
 ‘ —For the head clerk gave me a friendly
 ‘ hint, that it was expected, that all the clerks
 ‘ in his majesty’s offices, should shew the de-
 ‘ cent respect of conforming to the dress of
 ‘ the court, on these solemn occasions.—
 ‘ I could not help exclaiming, I believe a lit-
 ‘ tle too shortly, What, Sir! upon a salary of
 ‘ 50 *l.* a year?——Sir, (replied he, no bo-
 ‘ dy is forced to take that salary; and they
 ‘ who do not like the rules of the office, are
 ‘ at liberty to leave it: and then turned off
 ‘ upon his heel.—I beg pardon, Sir (said I,
 ‘ seeing my error) it was an oversight of mine;
 ‘ but it shall be amended.’——‘ The sooner
 ‘ the better, Sir, (answered he) for his lord-
 ‘ ship will be in the office to-morrow, and he
 ‘ must not see any thing so irregular; and
 ‘ pray, Sir (turning to the lad) get that fleece
 ‘ on your head shorn a little (his hair hung
 ‘ down

‘ down, in modest ringlets, upon his shoulders) and strive to appear something like a gentleman.

‘ I saw it was in vain to say any thing, and so took the boy away with me; and by noon, next day, brought him again, in all the fashionable trappings of woe, and with his hair shorn indeed, and tied up in a bag, by a French barber, for I would not stand for a trifle when my hand was in, desirous to see how he would be received in his new appearance; but alas! I had forgot that indispensable article of a gentleman’s dress, a sword, which I was therefore obliged to send out for directly. In a fortnight’s time, the order for the court’s going into second mourning, put me to the same expence over again; for the rules of decency were not to be dispensed with; and then, in a month after, it was as necessary to trim his light grey frock with a silver edging of coxcombe, that he might not appear worse than his fellows; all which, with many other as necessary *et cetera*’s, by the end of the first quarter, consumed his year’s salary.

‘ This enraged me to that degree, that I was going to take him away directly; but the boy had by this time, got some insight into the ways of the place, and prevented me, by saying, that if I would try, but for another quarter, he was satisfied that his perquisites would more than defray all such expences; and so I find they do, for though he is now as smart well-dressed a young fellow as any about town, he has never since troubled me for a shilling: nay, more than
‘ all

‘ all this, he assures me, there are some of
‘ his fellow clerks who keep footmen and horses, and have routs and concerts at their
‘ houses, as regularly as people of the first
‘ rank ; and all by the perquisites of a place
‘ of fifty pounds a year.

‘ Now as all those perquisites are drawbacks upon us, as I said before, we cannot
‘ carry on the business on the usual terms, if
‘ we do not bring up our loss in the quality
‘ of the goods, for it would be absurd to expect, that we should lower our living to let
‘ such fellows run away with the profit of our
‘ industry. In short, my wife’s chariot shall
‘ not be put down, nor will I deny myself a bottle of claret to give you, or any
‘ other friend, to save all the seamen in Britain from perishing with cold : charity begins at home ; I will insist upon having those
‘ pedlars prevented from interloping upon our
‘ trade ; and so, Sir, my service to you.’

C H A P. XII.

CHRYSAI's master gives his friend some hints, that make him lower his note. An uncommon piece of generosity returned more politely, than could be expected from the parties. An odd story of an unfashionable steward. The success of CHRYSAI's mediation in favour of his late master.

MY master had heard him out, though not with the greatest patience, and now taking the opportunity of his stopping to drink, ' All this may be true (said he) and ' what you propose might possibly have been ' done, and with the effect you desire, some ' time ago : but matters are altered a good ' deal at present, both among the gentlemen ' of the navy, and here too, as I am told : ' and indeed, in respect to this affair, those ' things are made so infamously bad, and ' rated so high, that no body can speak in the ' defence of them : nay, it even goes almost ' against my own conscience to *utter* them ; ' for only think with yourself, what a bare- ' faced imposition it is, to make a poor ' wretch pay seven shillings for a coarse rotten ' jacket, when even a Jew shall sell him a ' sound one, and of finer stuff, for four and ' sixpence ; and every thing else at the same ' rate. In short this point is so overstrained, ' that it will probably overturn the whole ' trade, in the end ; for several of the cap-
 VOL. I. E tains

' tains are so provoked at it, that they take
 ' every method they can, to prevent the men
 ' from taking up any thing from us ; particu-
 ' larly, that which I hinted before, of keep-
 ' ing off the alehouse-keepers, and such peo-
 ' ple, and encouraging sloop-sellers to come
 ' on board, when the men are paying, by
 ' which means they buy good comfortable
 ' cloaths, at half the price of our rotten
 ' trash : Indeed one of them went so far, as
 ' to buy in a parcel of good shoes, at his
 ' own expence, and make a present of a pair
 ' a-piece to all his *top-men*, when they were
 ' going out on a cruize, as they had spent
 ' their money, and could not buy for our-
 ' selves, and our shoes were so bad, that the
 ' first time they went aloft with them, after
 ' they were wet, the rattlings tore them all
 ' to pieces, so that it was a common thing
 ' to see a man come down bare-footed, who
 ' had gone up with a new pair of shoes on.
 ' Though it is but just to comfort you with
 ' an account of the return which he met for
 ' his kindness, which was no less than a
 ' *round robin* * to the lords of the admiralty,
 ' for his refusing to let them go ashore, and
 ' spend their money, in the same manner,
 ' the next time they came in.'

' And such a return may their officiousness
 ' always meet (replied the other) for meddling
 ' with matters which do not concern them :

* The name that seamen call their complaints a-
 gainst their captain ; it is taken from the manner
 of their signing them, which is in a circle, so that
 there is no knowing who signs first.

cannot

‘ cannot they be content with their own
‘ large gains, without interfering to hinder
‘ others ? but I see how it is : the spirit of
‘ patriotifm has got into them too, forsooth,
‘ and they must be fhewing their regard to
‘ the publick ! What an evil effect will the
‘ bad example of one man have ! There
‘ was a time when they would not have dared
‘ to do this. To fay the truth, my friend,
‘ this is not the first alarm we have received
‘ on this head ; though what to do about it,
‘ we cannot tell : indeed, I believe we must
‘ e’en mend our hands ; which, as half a
‘ loaf is better than no bread, hard as it
‘ is upon us, is preferable to losing the
‘ trade quite ; in the mean time, I am o-
‘ bliged to you and your captain for your
‘ friendship, and hope you will accept of
‘ *this* return.’ They then proceeded to
fettle their accompts, as soon as which were
finished, my master took his leave, and went
on with his business, which was exactly of
the same nature, and concluded in the same
way, with every person whom he dealt
with.

As soon as these transactions were ended,
his next care was to pass his captain’s accompts,
which he also succeeded in, without any diffi-
culty, though for this he was more indebted
to the chance of a lucky minute, than he had
apprehended. For they were no sooner closed,
than an affair happened that gave a turn, en-
tirely new, to the whole course of business,
in that channel.

When the accompts of the next captain
came to be examined, the clerk glancing his
E 2 eye

eye cursorily over them, in the usual manner, on looking at the amount, ' There must be some mistake here (said he). '—' How so, Sir (said the captain, who was present) let me look at the account if you please. No, Sir, there is no mistake, I believe. — ' Pray where do you mean? '—' In the casting it up, Sir (answered the clerk) you see, the amount is made to be but 800*l*. '—' Nor should it be more (replied the captain) I summed up the accompt myself, and these figures are of my own writing. '—' How can that possibly be, Sir, (returned the clerk in a surprize) but 800*l*. for all the repairs, *wear and tear* of a man of war, on such a station, for four years! I suppose then, Sir, the ship had a thorough repair going out, and wants the like now! To be sure, it can be done better, and cheaper here, than abroad, and therefore you were in the right to bring her home, to get it. '—' Not at all, Sir (added the captain) that was not the case: she had no thorough repair going out, and is come home in better order than she went, as this return of the officers of the yard shews. '—' *Good God! Sir, how did you manage?* '—' To the best of my judgment, Sir; I laid out nothing but what I thought necessary, and I charged nothing but what I laid out: I mean not to arraign the conduct of others; I only speak for myself. In these cases, I look upon a man as a steward to the publick; and I should think
it

‘ it as great dishonesty to betray or break
‘ that trust, as to wrong a private person.’

This speech was heard with astonishment, and returned with a cold compliment ; as it came too home to many, to meet general approbation ; however, the affair necessarily had an effect not very agreeable to some present ; for the next captain’s accoupts arising to near four times the sum of the last, such an immediate precedent made the difference so glaring, that it was impossible to avoid putting a stop to them ; though ours, which had been still higher, had gone off smoothly, and without the least remark.

My master having concluded this affair so happily, proceeded next on the great cause of his coming to town, in which, with our assistance, he laboured so successfully, that the captain’s *mistake* met only a gentle reprimand.

I here came into the possession of a new master, and immediately after changed my *Spanish* appearance for the fashion of the country, and in the shape of a *guinea*, entered into the most extensive state of sublunary influence, becoming the price of every name, that is respected under heaven.

C H A P. XIII.

CHRYSALE explains some farther properties of his nature. He changes his appearance for the mode of the country; and enters into the Service of a noble lord. The sagacity of Mr. Poundage, and his address in business.

I Am now entering upon a stage, where the scenes are so various, and so quickly changed, that it will require your strictest attention to keep pace with my relation. But to make this the easier to you, and to disincumber your surprize from doubts, at my repeating the past lives of persons, in whose possession I have been but a few moments, I must premise to you, that *our* knowledge is very different from that of men. I have told you, that we know all things *intuitively*, without the trouble, delay, and errors of *discourse* or reasoning. I must now further inform you, that this intuition extends not only to the present face of things, but also has a retrospect to the whole series of their existence, from its first beginning: the *concatenation* between cause and effect being so plain to our eyes, that let us but see any one event of the life of a man, and we immediately know every particular that preceded it.

As to *futurity* indeed, it is not yet determined how far forward we can look into that;
some

some allowing us to have the same power of *foresight* as we have of *retrospect*; which was the opinion that supported the credit of oracles in former days. But that notion is now exploded, and men argue, that our *foresight* extends only to *natural* causes and effects: but in the actions of man, his *free-will* so often breaks that order, that it is impossible for us to know this moment how he will act the next, from any observation of the past; and they think they prove their argument by this, that if spirits could foreknow all a man's actions, it would spare them the trouble of tempting him to any particular ones.—A favourite opinion, this of *temptation*, in the present way of thinking, as it is a ready excuse for throwing the blame of every unfortunate or evil action on the poor *Devil*, who perhaps knew nothing of the matter all the while.

But though the *Devil* may not be always able to foretell positively, every one allows that *he* can generally guess well; a power which I mention to you, as I may often exert it in this account.—I say, The *Devil*, to accommodate himself to the general mode of speaking which refers every action, good or bad, the cause of which men do not know, to some being which they call by that name.—But to return to my story.

From the *Mint*, where I put on the shape of a guinea, I was sent to the *Bank*, where the pleasure I had felt at the beauty and convenience of my new figure was considerably cooled, at my being thrown into so large an heap, as took away all my particular con-

sequence, and seemed to threaten a long state of inactivity, before it might come to my turn to be brought into action. But I soon found myself agreeably mistaken, and that the *circulation* there was too quick to admit of such delay: for I was that very day paid out to a noble lord, in his pension from the ministry.

It was about two in the afternoon, when I was brought to his lordship's levee, where the grandeur of his looks, and the magnificence of every thing about him, made me so pleased with my situation, that I thought I could be satisfied to fix my abode with him for some time.

He was just arisen, and seated at the fire, leaning on a writing table covered with green velvet, on which lay some books open, and several letters which he had just broke the seals off, and was beginning to read, while a female servant, beautiful as *Hebe*, poured out his tea at a side-board, and a page, like *Ganymede*, handed it to him.

In this easy indifference he sat, casting an eye upon a book, or reading a paragraph in a letter, between every sip of his breakfast, when I was laid upon his table, by his steward, with these words, — ‘Two hundred, my lord’— ‘Two hundred, (replied his lordship) the order was for five hundred!’— ‘But, my lord, the butcher, the baker!’— ‘*What are these wretches to me! Is not my whole estate sufficient for them?*’ ‘My lord, there is not a shilling to be got from your tenants, the times are so bad and the taxes so high! and an ounce of provisions could not be had’— ‘*Then you might have all fasted! I must have*
‘*money*

‘ money for this evening ; I am engaged in a
‘ PARTY, and cannot be off.’ — ‘ My lord,
‘ your lordship’s taylor desired me to speak
‘ to you ; he is to appear before his com-
‘ missioners to-morrow, and begs’ — ‘ What
‘ can I do ? I would relieve him if I could,
‘ but I have not money for myself : I cannot,
‘ will not do without five hundred more this
‘ evening, get it where or how you will.’ —
‘ My lord, I was thinking to apply to Mr.
‘ Discount, the scrivener, but he said the last
‘ time, that he would lend no more on
‘ that estate, without the immediate power
‘ of cutting the timber.’ — ‘ Well, damn him,
‘ let him have it, though it will not be fit to
‘ cut these ten years ; and, do you hear, get
‘ me a thousand to day’ — ‘ A thousand, my
‘ lord ! you said five hundred : I am afraid
‘ he will think a thousand too much !’ —
‘ Then he shall never have it ; let me do as
‘ I will ; do not I know, that the timber is
‘ worth twice as much this moment, if I could
‘ wait to set it to sale ; I will not be imposed
‘ on by the rascal : I’ll go myself to my neigh-
‘ bour Worthland directly ; he is a man of
‘ honour, and will be above taking advantage,
‘ though I did oppose his election.’ — ‘ As your
‘ lordship pleases for that. But then, per-
‘ haps, Mr. Discount will call in all his mo-
‘ ney, if he saw you put yourself into other
‘ hands ; beside, I am not certain that he will
‘ refuse, and therefore I should think it bet-
‘ ter to try him first ; you may do this after.
‘ Though I must take the liberty to say, I
‘ should be sorry to see your lordship obliged
‘ to stoop to Sir John Worthland, after all the

‘ expence you have been at to give him trouble. For to be sure he would boast of it in the country, if it was only to make you look little, and prevent your opposing him again’ — ‘ *Why there may be something in that: and therefore see what is to be done with Discount; but I must have the thousand at any rate, five hundred of which give to poor Buckiam, and bring me the other as soon as possible, for I am in haste out.*’ — ‘ Then your lordship had better sign this deed first, to save the time of coming back again, if he should do it.’ — ‘ *Aye, let me see it; there: and make haste.*’ — (And then turning to his page) *reach me that paper, this pen is so good it tempts me to write a letter, while I wait for Poundage’s return.*’ And so humming a new tune, he went on with his breakfast without the least concern.

You are so great a stranger to the ways of that part of the world which deals in money-matters, that you will be surprized when I tell you, that while this Mr. *Poundage* brought me from the Bank, he had called upon Mr. *Discount* and brought him to his lord’s, to do his business.

But you must not imagine this was to lend his lordship money. Nothing less. It was only to appear as the nominal lender of 1000*l.* of his lordship’s own money, which *Poundage* had that very morning received from some of his tenants in the country, and which, if he could not bring it in better, he meant to replace with part of the price of the timber, which he was to buy in *Discount*’s name, who was a creature of his own.

So remarkable a transaction gave me a curiosity to take a view of Poundage's life, the main lines of which I will just touch over, while you may think him gone for the money, and his lordship dressing for his engagement.

C H A P. XIV.

The history of Mr. Thomas Poundage. His lordship goes to his appointment. An evening's entertainment in high life. CHRYSAL changes his service: his reflections on the ruling passion of the times.

MR. Thomas Poundage was the offspring of a gypsy, who had left him in the straw he was born on, in an old barn near his lordship's father's, his weakness and deformity making her not think him worth the trouble of carrying away.

The old lord himself happening to be the first who heard his cries, as he was riding by, took compassion on the little helpless wretch, and ordered him to be taken care of at his own expence, and not sent to the parish.

Such an uncommon instance of charity was immediately attributed to a tenderer motive: a suspicion, however injurious to his lordship, so advantageous to the *foundling*, that it doubled the care and attendance on him, and made him appear of such consequence, that Mr. Thomas Poundage himself, his lordship's steward, condescended to stand god-father for him, and gave him his own name. As *Mas-*
ter

ter Tommy grew up, he shewed all the sharpness and cunning of his race, which old *Poundage* representing to his lord, as a capacity for learning, he was put to the best schools; and being of the same age with his lordship's eldest son, his present master, was settled as an humble companion and attendant upon him; in which station, the pliancy of his temper soon gained him his master's favour, as his secrecy and discretion did his confidence; no service appearing too difficult or mean for his undertaking, to please his master, especially in the mysteries of intrigue; nor a look ever betraying his success.

These services naturally produced an intimacy, that opened to him all his master's secrets, and gave him such consequence with him, that upon the death of his father, old *Poundage* was *superannuated upon a pension*, and the place given to him, in which he had behaved himself so judiciously, that in about ten years he had amassed so large a fortune, as to be able to supply his master's wants (with the assistance of his own money sometimes) without the scandal of exposing them to any other: a service that amply recompensed to his lordship's honour, whatever prejudice it may be supposed to do his affairs.

'Tis true, his thus supplanting his godfather and benefactor *old Poundage*, had not met with the approbation of such as were not well acquainted with the world, and particularly, as the old gentleman, in his rage, had accounted for all his kindness to him, by owning a relation, which he had before strove to fix upon his lord, by many plain insinuations,

ations, though he now said he had long before revealed to his ungrateful son, the secret of his birth.

However, if he had communicated this secret, our son of fortune had kept it so well, that he could now deny it with safety; nor had he profited so little by his father's example, as to be moved with a suggestion that evidently appeared, however true it might be in itself, to spring at that time from resentment. And as he could not expect to reap any great advantage from being acknowledged for the spurious son of one who had many legitimate children to inherit his fortune, he thought it better to confirm the former opinion, by his flights of the claim of *Poundage*, and since he must be the bastard of one of them, chuse the lord before his servant.

But to return to my master. He was dressed by that time *Poundage* came back with the money, when taking the five hundred for *his own use*, he went to his appointment.

As to the other five hundred, which he had ordered to be paid to his taylor, for fear of the wretch's applying to the lord himself, in his despair, *Poundage* did send for him, and in compassion to his distress, advanced him 400*l.* of his own money, for he had not a shilling of his lord's in his hands; for which piece of service he desired no other consideration, than a receipt for 500*l.* though it might be so long before he could get it back, that he expected to be a loser by his friendship,
which

which Mr. Buckram need not, as he could bring it up in his next bill.

It was five o'clock, and dinner just serving up, when my lord joined his company. At dinner, and during the reign of the bottle for a couple of hours after, the conversation turned upon all the polite topicks of the times, wherein there could be no long disputes, as every difference in opinion was immediately determined by a *bet*, the supreme decision of peace, war, religion and law.— But this dissipated *pidling* soon gave way to the serious business of the evening, to which they all adjourned, with an attention and anxiety worthy of the consequence at stake.

It is impossible to give you any idea of this scene, in which every moment produced such sudden transitions from despair to exultation, from shouts of joy to the most blasphemous execrations of their very being, on the vicissitudes in the momentary fortunes of the actors, that the very recollection of it is a pain even to me, as it bears too strong a resemblance to the tortures of the damned.

However, it made no such impression upon them: but they continued at it till about six in the *morning*, when they retired for the *night*.

In the course of the *evening*, I often went the circuit of the whole company round, and at length was carried home by a new master. But before I say any thing of him, I must give you a few slight sketches of the characters of some others of the company, and particularly of my *late* lord, in whose whole
appear-

appearance and behaviour there was something so extraordinary.

There is scarce a stronger instance of the tyranny of avarice over the heart of man, than the passion for *play*, which now is so general and prevalent, as to seem in a manner to have drowned every other. The tenderest, the strongest connections of friendship and nature, yield to the force of this relentless infatuation. The persons who esteem each other most in the world this moment, no sooner sitting down to this *decision of fate*, than they labour for each other's ruin, with all the assiduity and eagerness of the most inveterate hatred and revenge.

Nor is this practice confined to those alone whom necessity may seem to stimulate to so desperate a resource. The richest are often found to be the most infatuated with this passion, who possessing already more than they can enjoy, yet hazard that, and give themselves up a prey to anxiety, and often to despair, to indulge a fruitless desire for more.

Of this last class were most of the company, among whom my *late* lord had spent this evening : some few indeed there were whom this folly had reduced to the former, and necessitated to live by their experience in the art which had been their ruin.

C H A P. XV.

CHRYSALE represents the company in perspective. Anecdotes of some of the most remarkable persons of the party. A painter-general deceived by his own judgment and eminent taste for VIRTU.

I see your curiosity rise at the mention of so strange a scene as this must be. It is natural, and therefore shall be indulged. But as all description must fall short of it, I shall represent it to you in perspective. Do you therefore resolve sense into imagination, a practice not uncommon with the philosophick mind, and to pure abstracted attention, shall my words become things, and appear as visible to its eyes, as if they were purged with *euphrasie* and *rue*.

Observe now at the head of the table, that heavy looking figure, whose *saturnine* complexion gives a solemnity to his appearance, even beyond his declining years. This man wore out the prime of his life in indigence and hardships, till chance, by one successful stroke in his business, gave him such a fortune, as was deemed sufficient merit to deserve nobility, and entitle him to one of the first employments in the state.

Sudden elevation makes a weak head giddy; the plain, good-natured, chearful man, is lost in the solemn proud peer; who is harder of access than his sovereign, and seems to value
himself

himself on having all the hours he has spent in cringing to the great, repaid tenfold in attendance upon him. As to the business of his office, the whole system of human politicks is in general such a jumble of blundering and villainy, that I can seldom bring myself to bestow a moment's notice on it, so can say no more of his, than that the little attention, and less capacity he has for it, may most probably give just occasion for all the murmurings that are against him.—But this was not the motive of my pointing him to you. It was his infatuation to the love of play, which makes him hazard that wealth which he so long felt the want of, in hopes of acquiring more, though he has already more than he can enjoy.

This has been an unsuccessful night with him. Observe how stupified he looks at his loss! extend the view but a few moments farther, and see how he sits down in the common hall of the tavern, among servants and chairmen, insensible of the impropriety of such a place, and unable to order his servants to carry him home: nor is it improbable that the scene he has just quitted may remain so strongly on his imagination to-morrow, that he may write down the rules of the game he has been playing at, instead of the orders of his office, as he has done once before.

Next to him, you see a short, ruddy, chearful looking man. That is one of the deplorable instances of the evil of this preposterous passion. With every advantage of rank, abilities and fortune, did that person set out in life. But
alas!

alas! soon was the prospect of his future happiness and grandeur overcast! soon did gaming reduce him not only to a necessity of prostituting his abilities to the prejudice of his country, but also of descending to every iniquitous mystery of the art to support his practice of it; for so bewitched is he to it, that he cannot desist, though he now can scarce get any person to play with him, his want of money and his skill being so well known.

This has been a successful evening with him, as you may see by his extraordinary flow of spirits: not that his natural vivacity ever fails him in the worst reverse of fortune. He has won a considerable part of the great losses of the person we have just been taking notice of; and though he has many demands upon him for every shilling of it, yet so far from thinking of paying one of them, he is this moment planning new scenes of pleasure to consume it all, preferring to let his creditors all be bankrupts, or even compound with them as a bankrupt himself, rather than deny his appetites their full gratification.

Opposite to him, at the other side of the table, observe an uncommonly large boned bulky man: that is one of the instances of the insufficiency, and weakness of human laws, which striving to remedy one evil often make way for a greater.—That man is now advanced to the foremost rank of the military list, without one military virtue to assist his rise, but merely and solely by *seniority*! A grievous abuse of that institution, which to prevent favour from advancing its minions over friendless merit, ordains, that no senior officer shall serve
under

under his junior; but now, by the natural force of human perversion, this well-designed regulation is made a pretext for giving command to such as have no other claim to it, than (what should indeed incapacitate them) old age, and so keeping back the advance and damping the ardour of youth.

As there is no man without some particular ambition, his has taken a turn which perhaps you may think the most remote from his profession of a soldier. Pictures! painting, the sole object of his admiration, the only knowledge he values himself upon. Tell him of a siege, or a battle, an attack or a retreat, conducted with the greatest skill and he hears you unmoved, nor will interrupt your account with a single question: but name *Rembrandt* or *Titian*, and he immediately gives you a dissertation on their excellencies, and the difference of their schools! Tell him but of a sale of pictures, on the day fixed for a review, and if he is forced to feign sickness to excuse his attendance in the field, he will be at it.

Such absurd passions are always the objects of artifice and imposition. An ingenious painter of this country, not very long since whose works would have been a credit to the best of foreign schools, but were despised at home, bethought himself of a way to turn this person's foible to some advantage. He made some designs, landscapes, and other drawings, in the manner of some of the greatest of the ancient *Italian* masters, whose names he marked upon the backs of them, in the rude characters of their times, and giving them *the cast* of age, made them up in an *Italian* chest, and by the assistance of a captain of a ship had them entered

tered at the custom-house, as directly from *Italy*, and consigned to a stranger, as from a friend there, to be disposed of in *London*.

The report instantly reached this lover of *virtu*, who was so ravished with the thought of gaining such a treasure, that he flew to the place, and *being convinced by his judgment of the authenticity of them*, bought them all together for a very large sum, but far short of their *real* value, had they been to be disposed of by a person *acquainted* with it.

Though this success was very pleasing, and useful to the painter, he did not stop here. This person had some way taken a dislike to him, which he indulged, by running down his work. This therefore was an opportunity for revenge, not to be missed. He let him boast of his acquisition in all companies, and display his judgment in proving them to be the genuine productions of those great masters by criticisms that none but a connoisseur could make : but then, as soon as the whole affair was so publick, that there was no denying it, what does the incensed artist but produce the counterparts of them all, which he had kept for the occasion, so like as not possible to be known asunder, and unravelled the whole affair, taking care only to keep himself clear of the law. by saying, that he had sold those things as of no value, at a very small price, to a Jew.

This was a severe stroke ! It overturned the only reputation which he had even an ambition of, and robbed him of a large sum of money beside, to recover which loss, and divert the chagrine of the whole deceit, he
has

has recourse to play, which he follows with the eagerness you see.

I see your senses fail, under such an extraordinary exertion, I shall therefore close this scene with observing, that the whole company may be characterized under the few I have pointed to you. In this view of them, I chose to take the silent moment, when their business was near over, for in the height of it, the agitation of such complicated passions would have been too horrible for representation.

C H A P. XVI.

CHRYSAI gives a farther account of his late lord. The methods by which he had been initiated in the mysteries of polite life. Some sketches of the character of his next master, who gives him to an extraordinary person.

I Promised to give you some account of my late lord, he was the son of one of the most distinguished persons of his age, who had acquired a fortune in the service of his country, sufficient to support with proper dignity, the nobility with which his faithful zeal was rewarded by his grateful sovereign.

The youth of his son opened with such promising hopes, that it was expected he would advance in the steps of his father, to the highest rank of a subject. To facilitate

litate these hopes, at his return from his travels, in which he had not only gone to see, but had also taken time to consider the principal countries of *Europe*, with those of *Africa* and *Asia*, whose interests might any way affect those of his own, or whose history, illustrated thus by observation, might teach him to improve the advantages of his own country, and avoid the evils which had been the ruin of others, he was placed in the lower house of the senate, with every advantage of fortune, interest, and opinion, to support the exertion of his abilities.

He had scarce made himself known here, in his proper light, when the death of his father raised him into the house of *peers*, where he soon established a weight that made him of real consequence to the nation, and alarmed the fears of the ministry, who, as they could not confute, resolved to corrupt him, if possible; for which end the deepest schemes were put in practice, to relax his morals, and embarrass his fortune, as the present situation of both, raised him above their attempts.

It would require uncommon virtue to resist the temptations to vice, in an age whose refinements have taken off every grossness, and almost every horror of its appearance. His regard was won, by a most delicate application to that vanity, which is too often the shadow of merit, especially in youth; the very persons who designed to change his principles, seeming to give up theirs to the superior force of his reason.

Such

Such artifice soon won the confidence of his unguarded heart, and inclined it to receive their opinions and advice, without farther examination ; as the heat of youth, and a vivid imagination assisted their designs against his fortune, the success of which was in itself a sufficient reward.

He had always expressed a dislike to *play*, nor ever gave into it, but in complaisance to company. To conquer this aversion was therefore their last labour, in which they found easier success than they could have even hoped for. The affluence of his fortune made him above apprehension of loss, and a disdain to be excelled, even in an art he disapproved, engaged him with a keenness, that soon made his advances in the art a pleasure to him.

The work was now done ; and a few years of his own industry, with the assistance of his faithful steward, made him willing to enter into the pay of a ministry, which he might in less time, have overturned.

This was his situation at that time ; but some secret struggles which I saw reason and virtue making in his heart, made me think he meditated a revolt from his infatuation, which the least liberty to his natural good sense could not fail to accomplish ; an event which the rapacity of *Poundage* must hasten to his own ruin.

The person, in whose possession I left the scene you have just beheld, was one of those who had been so successful in initiating my late master into all the mysteries of pleasure. Indeed, he seemed designed by nature to extend

tend its empire over all mankind, making it the sole object of abilities equal to the most exalted pursuits, to invent new, to improve the old methods of gratifying sense, and enforcing his precepts, by an example so keen, and a conversation so captivating, as not to be resisted.

Appetites so extensive required a large support; to provide which, for fortune had so far frowned upon his birth, that he was but a younger brother, he was compelled to steal some moments from his darling pleasures, and sacrifice them to business. — The interest of his family, and his own abilities had raised him to the first employments in the state; but as the sole motive of his submitting to the restraint of any application, was to acquire a fund for the gratification of his pleasures, his haste to arrive at that end, precipitated him into the most destructive measures, and made him ready and eager to embrace every opportunity of sacrificing, or rather selling the interest of his country for present private gain.

The proper application of the gifts of heaven, makes them a blessing. This cast of his disposition, made those abilities, which under a right direction, would have been of the highest service to himself and his country, a real prejudice to both, making him the ready and dangerous instrument of the most enormous crimes, that could promise present gratification to his passions.

In such a life, there must necessarily be many disagreeable occurrences, but they make no impression on him, for his whole soul is
so

so devoted to pleasure, that upon the least miscarriage in business, he finds immediate relief in the return to that, which he can fly to, without any difficulty, the natural vivacity of his temper, that makes his conversation so bewitching to others, never yielding to a second moment's vexation, at any one event.

As the viper bears in herself the antidote of her poison, this dissipation of temper prevents his abilities from doing all the mischief he otherwise might, by pulling off the mask, and shewing his designs, too soon for their accomplishment. The very persons, who would gladly avail themselves of the venality, not daring to trust to the inconstancy of his disposition ; so that he soon lost his greatest power of doing evil, otherwise than by opposing, and impeding the measures of those, whose successful honesty disappointed his designs, and shewed the danger of them in its proper light.

You will not imagine that my stay could be long in his possession. He that very day gave me to an author, for throwing dirt on the characters of those who had detected and defeated his schemes of leading his country into ruin.

C H A P. XVII.

The history and character of CHRYSALE's new master. His adventures at the coffee house. The fun of a modern GENIUS retorted upon himself, by the grave rebuke of a testy veteran.

MY new master was a votary of *Apollo*, in the double capacity of physic and letters : for the former not affording scope enough for his genius, he usually dedicated his leisure hours to the gentler entertainment of the latter, through the extensive circle of which he had occasionally ran ; there not being a branch, in the wide wood of science, which had not felt his pruning. The lowest rudiments of the most vulgar arts, being, in his opinion, no more beneath the philosophick pen, than the most abstruse heights of speculation.

It must be owned, that in such a latitude of study, he often was obliged to prostitute his labours ; but for this he had the solid consolation, that his gain generally rose, in proportion as his subject sunk, the caprice of the world paying best, that is, buying most eagerly, what it affected to decry most. Nor is this to be wondered at, a loose tale, or a receipt for cooking a new dish, being better adapted to general taste, than a moral essay, or metaphysical speculation.

From

From his patron's levee my master went directly home, and undressing into his cap and slippers, ascended to his study, and took a meditative turn or two, revolving in his mind the many grievances that called upon him for redress, from the success of that morning.

At length, bursting into a rapture, he cried, 'I'll think no more! Be the wants of yesterday forgot! those of to-morrow will come too soon, without the anticipation of thought! I cannot pay all I owe! I cannot provide all I want! Hence then vain care! I'll depend on fortune, and myself, for a greater supply, another day, and indulge my genius with the present.'—Big with this heroick resolution, he gave orders for dinner, and then sending for his best suit home, dressed himself in all his pride, and went to the coffee-house to look at the papers.

The pleasure of my company had given such a flow to his spirits, naturally high, that he soon drew the attention of the coffee-room, the greater part of the company gathering in a circle round him, to hear his remarks on the publications of the day, which he threw out with the confidence of one, who thought his opinion the established standard of all writing; and at the same time, with a sprightliness that made his very impudence and absurdity entertaining.

While he was thus running on, in the torrent of harangue, a *veteran*, whose only employment, for many years, was talking over the actions of his youth, and comparing them to the mistakes and losses of the present times,

no longer able to contain his rage, at having his audience drawn from him, in the midst of his daily tale, rose up with an execration that shook the room, and calling for his cloak and cane, ' This is not to be borne (exclaimed he.) ' Here, waiter, take for my coffee! I shall ' stay in such a place no longer: is this the ' land of freedom, forsooth! that a man ' must be disturbed in his discourse, and not ' have liberty to speak where he spends his ' money. Had I but the command here, I'd ' settle other orders; every prating puppy ' should not presume to interrupt his betters: ' things are like to go well with us, when ' matters of the highest consequence can be ' broken in upon by noise and nonsense. This ' is freedom with a vengeance!'

The look and accent with which these words were pronounced, were too terrible for my master to encounter; both nature and experience having given him so lively an apprehension of danger, that his readiest presence of mind was not always able to conceal it. He was, therefore, cut short at once, and could scarce muster spirits to throw a wink at some of those about him, as the *man of war* looked another way.

But the triumph was not so absolute over all the company, one of whom, resolving to have some *fun*, cries out, ' Pray doctor proceed; you are just, in the most interesting ' part of your story: the colonel could not ' mean to interrupt you; he is too fond of ' telling his own story, to give another such ' pain: go on, you should not be frightened at ' a flash in the pan.'

' Frighted

‘Frighted indeed’ (replied the doctor, gathering courage when he saw himself supported) ‘at what, I wonder! at the sight of what old age can sink to! no, no! I am not so easily frightened! I leave that to your antiquated heroes, the exploits of whose youth have exhausted their courage: I mean no offence;—but to go on, as I was saying, *the discovery of the sleep of plants accounts in the clearest manner*’—‘Hold, doctor (cries the other) ‘that was not *as you were saying*, you were telling us of the nobleman, who caught his coachman in bed with his lady, one morning, when he came home, sooner than usual from the tavern, pray how did she bring herself off.

‘Oh, was that it (replied the doctor) faith I had forgot; the fury of *Mars* had like to have made a gap in the annals of *Venus*: ha! ha! ha! why she made nothing of it, but laughing in his face, most heroically, *tit for tat* my dear is but fair play (said she) while I say nothing at your staying out night after night with *Kitty*, you cannot in conscience blame my comforting myself a little with *John*.’

The colonel stood all this while convulsed with rage, too big for utterance, but the universal laugh that followed the doctor’s last words, rousing him from his *reverie*, he advanced to him, ‘Whom do you dare to laugh at, *poltroon*? (says he, taking him by the nose) whose courage is exhausted? but you are beneath my notice or resentment, farther than this’—(then spitting full in his face, he turned to the gentleman who had set the doctor

on, and who now began not to like the joke any farther) ‘ But for you, Sir, you perhaps
 ‘ may be a gentleman, and worth calling to a
 ‘ further account, will you please to walk up
 ‘ stairs with me, and let me know what you
 ‘ meant by a flash in the pan ?’

The ceremonies of attending him, on such an expedition, would not have been much more agreeable to this gentleman, than to my master, but he had more command of his fear, and was well used to bring himself off with a joke, ‘ Sir (says he) you need not give
 ‘ yourself the trouble of going up stairs for
 ‘ what I can as well do here ! By bidding the
 ‘ doctor not be frightened, I meant at the cir-
 ‘ cumstances of his own story, for just as you
 ‘ interrupted him, he had said, that the lord
 ‘ snapped a pistol at his lady, which had flash-
 ‘ ed in the pan ! That was all, Sir ! I could
 ‘ never mean it to offend you, or shew a doubt
 ‘ of your courage, which I have heard you
 ‘ relate so many surprising instances of, so of-
 ‘ ten, and always so invariably alike, that
 ‘ they must be true.’

‘ Sir ! Sir ! have a care (replied the colo-
 ‘ nel) I do not desire to be troubled with such
 ‘ a gentleman, as I perceive you are ! But
 ‘ let me tell you, Sir, that I have seen a man’s
 ‘ face broke, before now, for wearing such a
 ‘ sneer ! As to the stories I tell, I am satisfied
 ‘ they will be of no service to you, nor raise
 ‘ the least emulation in a man who can stay
 ‘ lounging about town, when his country has
 ‘ occasion for him. I was younger than you,
 ‘ when I went a volunteer with lord *Cutts*,
 ‘ under the duke of *Marlborough*, nor was I
 ‘ urged

‘ urged by want. I had a good estate, Sir,
‘ sufficient to supply me with what you call
‘ the pleasures of life, if I could have thought
‘ any thing a pleasure that was not attended
‘ with honour. Sir, I lost this hand at *Blen-*
‘ *heim*, and this leg at *Malplaquet*! But why
‘ do I tell you so! you will preserve your
‘ hands to take snuff; and your legs, to walk
‘ the park, the proper scene of your cam-
‘ paigns.’—With which words the doughty
hero marched away to his chariot.

Though this lecture was rather too grave
for the taste of the person to whom it was ad-
dressed, it gave great pleasure to the uncon-
cerned part of the company, and to none more
than my master, who had wiped his face, and
began to come to himself, as soon as he saw
the danger directed another way.

Before the gentleman could speak, the doc-
tor came up to him, and said, ‘ I am sorry, Sir,
‘ that you should have drawn this storm upon
‘ yourself, upon my account! But I bore the
‘ worst of it! You heard but the whistling of
‘ the winds, the shower fell on me! ’tis well
‘ though, that what such dotards do, is not
‘ esteemed an affront!’—‘ An affront, Sir,
‘ (replied the other) I do not understand you!
‘ I hope you do not insinuate, that there was
‘ any affront offered to me, or that I was in
‘ the least concerned in what was said, only to
‘ you!’—‘ Not at all, Sir (returned the doc-
‘ tor) not at all, Sir! the colonel’s discourse
‘ was all directed to me, to be sure! and I
‘ hope to profit by it, thus far, that I will ne-
‘ ver interrupt him again!’—And with these
‘ words, he left his former friend the field,

not caring to enter into any farther altercation with him, for fear he might take it into his head to vindicate his character on *him*, as *he knew his man*.

Such slight rebuffs made not a moment's impression on the temper of my master: he was used to, and made nothing of them! A good dinner, and a bottle of wine, sent him in the evening, in a critical enthusiasm, to the theatre, where all action fell short of the sublimity of his conception, all expression, of the warmth of his feeling, as he fully explained, to every company in the coffee house, while he sat at public supper, after the play was done.

C H A P. XVIII.

Some further account of CHRYSAL's master. His conversation and engagements with two booksellers. Some of the secrets of the trade. CHRYSAL changes his service.

EXtensive as these scenes were, they shewed not my master in his proper light. His peculiar sphere was his study, where the inconsistency of his works shewed the *chaos* in the brain, from whence they sprung. *Chaos* did I say? *Chaos* is order to the confusion there. For surely the discordant seeds of such ill-matched things were never jumbled together before. An auctioneer's library is a regular system, in comparison to his head. Such an heap has neither beginning nor end. No fixed point to commence a description from. I shall therefore wave such an attempt, and only

ly strive to convey some idea of it, from its effects.—At five next morning he arose to his labours, the first of which was to consider, what he should begin the day with, such was the multitude he had in hand. But what reason could not determine, chance must, and he took them as they happened to lie, *panegyrick, libel, physick, divinity, cookery, criticism, politics, ballads, botany, &c. &c. &c.* In all of which he indefatigably worked the task of the day, changing his subject with as little concern as he did his paper: and though such rambling prevented his ever getting deeper than the surface of any subject, yet it shewed the extent and volubility of his capacity, and that it wanted only regular application, to any science, to be eminent in it.

As soon as he had finished, and the *devils* had carried away his labours, he was just descending to go out, when a bookseller came to pay him a visit. After much ceremony on one side, and little civility on the other, Mr. *Vellum* thus accosted my master: Well, Sir, I see there
 ‘ is no dependance on the word of an author!
 ‘ I thought I was to have the answer to yesterday’s pamphlet last night! Somebody else
 ‘ will do it, and then I shall be finely off.’

‘ Upon my honour, Sir (replied my master)
 ‘ I assure you I should have done it, but
 ‘ some business’—‘ *What business can you have,
 ‘ that should interfere a moment with your
 ‘ engagements with me?*’—‘ Dear Mr. *Vellum*
 ‘ do but hear me! There is a noble lord going
 ‘ to be divorced for impotence; I
 ‘ just got an hint of the matter, the night
 ‘ before last, and so waited upon his lordship’s

' gentleman yesterday morning, with whom
 ' I have a particular intimacy, having served
 ' him in my profession more than once; and
 ' from him I have learned the whole story,
 ' and now leave me to set it out! I'll engage
 ' to make a noble eighteen-pennyworth of
 ' it at least by to-morrow morning.' 'Why,
 ' there may be something in that; but in the
 ' mean time you should not let other matters
 ' cool!—' Never fear; pray how did yester-
 ' day's pamphlet do?'—'Why tolerably well;
 ' but the scandal was so gross, that I was al-
 ' most afraid.'—'Aye! aye! never fear me
 ' for an home cut! never fear me!'—'But I
 ' hear nothing of the exertitions!'—'No!
 ' your devil carried away the sheet above an
 ' hour ago!'—'Then there's that book you pro-
 ' mised to re-write; some one else will do it,
 ' and prevent you.'—'Never fear, I have just
 ' laid down a scale for the stile; beside, I
 ' have altered the title already, and that you
 ' know is the principal thing.'—'That is right!
 ' Now you speak of titles, I want half a dozen
 ' directly! this very day if possible!'—'Tis
 ' rather too late now; but where are the
 ' books?'—'In the lumber-garret, where
 ' they have lain this seven years.'—'That's
 ' well; they are forgot by this.'—'Forgot!
 ' why they were never known! the author was
 ' a man of fortune, who printed them at his
 ' own expence, but I prevented the sale, and so
 ' had them for the publishing! Ha! ha! ha!
 ' beside a good consideration for the buying up, at
 ' a double price, what I had (NOT) sold of them;
 ' so that it was not a bad job; and now he is
 ' dead, they may safely come out under new titles!
 ' —It

‘ — *It will be too great a delay to wait to see them, but here are the old titles, which I suppose may do.*’ — ‘ *Why aye ; they may do ! but I cannot possibly write them this evening ; you know I must answer that pamphlet I wrote last week, before it is forgot : I have an answer ready, that will make a noise ; I expect it will raise a curiosity, that will sell another edition of the pamphlet. I left opens for such retorts upon the characters I praised in that, and have such pieces of secret history to hit them off with, that I’ll engage for the success—.*’ *Aye, secret history, and stories of family misfortunes, and such like, may do something ! But I had like to have forgot the main business of my coming. There is an account of the death of an eminent divine, this morning : could we not vamp up a volume or two of sermons for him, think you ? He was suspected of heresy and atheism, and you know, that would make any thing in his name go off.*’ ‘ *Egad, a good thought ! and particularly lucky at this time : for as I have been engaged in divinity lately, I know the weak sides of the question, and a little infidelity will be a refreshment to me. It shall be done ! the sermons shall be ready without delay ! Have not you got some by you that did not go off : let me have one of each, and I’ll interline it to save time ; but will you publish them yourself ? I thought you had given up sermons !*’ — ‘ *Myself ! no ! no ! I’ll send them in to Mr. Vampire : I’ll reserve the confutation of them to myself !*’ — ‘ *Egad, another good thought ; the confutation will do better ! and I’ll take care to make it a smart one, and play the devil with*

th :

' the author ; ha, ha, ha.—But, Mr. Vellum,
 ' your coming here this morning prevented
 ' my waiting on you : it is a great while since
 ' you promised to settle with me. You should
 ' consider, Sir'—*'What pray, good Sir, should*
 ' *I consider ? that I have supported you !'*—
 ' Supported me, Mr. Vellum ! Sir, I have a
 ' profession'—*'I know you have, Mr. Doctor ;*
 ' *a profession indeed, in which his majesty's sub-*
 ' *jects may bless God that nine in ten of you*
 ' *would starve, if they had not some other way*
 ' *of getting bread, beside that'*—*'Mr. Vellum,*
 ' you know this way of talking signifies no-
 ' thing. It is a long time since we have set-
 ' tled any account, and there are a great ma-
 ' ny articles ! Let me see : aye, here they are !
 ' and a long list it is ! NINETEEN PAM-
 ' PHLETS, with ANSWERS to FOURTEEN of
 ' them, NINE RAPES, SIX MURDERS, FIVE
 ' FAST and FOUR FUNERAL SERMONS,
 ' THIRTY-SIX ESSAYS, TWENTY-TWO
 ' TITLES, FOUR QUARTO VOLUMES RE-
 ' WRIT, SEVENTEEN WILLS, TWENTY-
 ' FOUR'—*'Go on, Sir, go on !' but when you*
 ' *have done look at THIS, and then talk to me*
 ' *of an account ; here is your bond for 15l.*
 ' *which is due these two years ; and it is very*
 ' *likely, to be sure, that you should leave it out-*
 ' *standing so long, if you had any account to set*
 ' *off against it !' but I am glad I know you ; and*
 ' *since you talk of accounts, observe that I de-*
 ' *mand my money, due on this bond, which I*
 ' *will have, and when you have paid that, it will*
 ' *be time enough for me to settle accounts with*
 ' *you, so Sir your servant.'*—*'Mr. Vellum, good*
 ' *Mr. Vellum, do not be so hasty ! I did not*
 ' *mean to give you offence'*—*'Accounts indeed !*
 ' *have*

‘ have I not supplied you with paper above the
 ‘ weekly allowance we agreed for, and yet you
 ‘ will talk to me !’—‘ Mr. Vellum, I may be
 ‘ in the wrong ; let matters stand as they
 ‘ are : but you have not told me what lize
 ‘ you would have this affair of the divorce,
 ‘ that I mentioned to you j st now’—‘ *There*
 ‘ *it is now ; that is your way always ; you*
 ‘ *know my easy temper, and that you can*
 ‘ *bring me down when you please : why if*
 ‘ *the story will bear much painting, and the cir-*
 ‘ *cumstances are very strong and plain, I be-*
 ‘ *lieve you may draw it out to two shillings ;*
 ‘ *and to encourage you, and shew you that I mean*
 ‘ *generously by you, when you have finished*
 ‘ *that, and the Answer, and the Sermons,*
 ‘ *and the Confutations, and the Titles, and*
 ‘ *the Exercitations, I will give you up your*
 ‘ *bond, and then we will begin an account on*
 ‘ *fair even terms. But I am in haste ; I have*
 ‘ *three or four other gentlemen to call upon ; I*
 ‘ *shall depend upon your promise, and so good*
 ‘ *morning.*’—‘ Good morning to you, good
 ‘ Mr. Vellum—Damn’d, imposing, grinding
 ‘ scoundrel ; but I’ll be quit with you, for
 ‘ all your tricks (said the doctor, as soon as
 ‘ Mr. Vellum was out of the room) and teach
 ‘ such stupid rascals to attempt outwitting men
 ‘ of genius.

When I considered the nature and importance of my master’s demand, I could not but wonder at the ease with which he took a denial, and the joy he expressed at Mr. Vellum’s departure ; but the mystery was soon cleared up, by the arrival of Mr. Pamphlet, another of the trade, almost the very moment

ment *Vellum* went down stairs, and whom I saw by his reception, my master expected.

If I was before shocked at the cruelty with which I thought *Vellum* treated my master, I was now no less so, at the part he acted with *Pamphlet*, with whom he bargained over again for the very same *ware* which he had before promised to *Vellum*, and flattered him with an assurance of having his business done, that is, the answers and re-writing, before *Vellum* possibly could, for they were mortal enemies.

The discourse between these was much the same as the former, only that it was concluded in a different manner ; *Pamphlet* giving my master a couple of pieces to keep him in mind of his engagement.

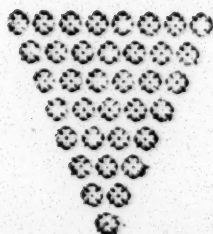
I was utterly at a loss to think how he meant to act between these two ; when he put an end to my doubts by this soliloquy. ‘ So, ‘ now I have dispatched you two, the day ‘ is my own ; keep my engagements ! I will, ‘ with both alike. Let me see, there is no- ‘ thing in it, but a little trouble of writing : ‘ I can divide the hits between both answers ‘ according to the opens I have left on purpose, ‘ and so send them to both at the same time ; ‘ only to divide the alterations in my scale of ‘ stile, and make a second title, and so ’tis ‘ done. This method that I have found, of ‘ using a feigned name, makes it all easy. ‘ Well, let those who were born to fortunes, ‘ spend them in sloth and ignorance, I have an ‘ estate in myself, that can never be exhaust- ‘ ed. I am obliged to nature only for my ‘ abilities

'abilities, and carry the fountain of honour
'and fortune in the fluency of my genius.'

He then descended from his ærial citadel, and going out to *visit* his patients, *changed* me at the coffee-house, where I was immediately borrowed at the bar by an officer, who was going to dine with his general, and wanted money to give his servants.



END of the FIRST BOOK.



B O O K



B O O K II.

C H A P. I.

CHRYSALE enters into the service of the gentleman of a general. Gratitude in high and low life. The modern way of rising in the world, and the happiness of dependance. Influence of CHRYSALE's master, with his curious manner of supporting it.

YOU may judge that my stay with this owner was but short: he gave me directly to the general's gentleman, with a letter to be presented to his excellency next morning, as he could not find courage to speak to him in person.

The case of this person, though not uncommon among men, I own affected me. He was the son of an officer of distinguished merit, the services of whose life had, in the 80th year of it, been rewarded with the command of a regiment, and the hopes of his son crowned with a pair of colours; which, on the death of his father, in six months after his elevation, he found to be his whole inheritance; the fees of office, and the equipage for his new rank, having exhausted all the savings of the old man's subaltern frugality.—The most exemplary duty, in five warm campaigns, had advanced the son to the rank of a lieutenant, when the exaltation of the person to whom he now applied, raised his hopes to
a com.

a company, which was vacant in the regiment, and his right by seniority : for such was his ignorance of mankind, that he built sanguine expectations on the very reasons that should have deprived him of any, *the obligations of the person, to whom he applied, to his father,* who had taken him up, the poor friendless orphan of a young ensign, educated him at his own expence, procured him his first commission, and afterwards lent him the money with which he had purchased his company : a debt which the son was weak enough to expect a friendship from, though it, and much more, had long since been cleared at play.

But though the character of the son, and the general's known intimacy with the father, in a manner obliged him to promise him his friendship, yet nothing was farther from his thoughts than ever to do him any real service ; as he imagined that would be acknowledging the obligations which his very attendance seemed to upbraid him with : a dinner now and then being the only favour he ever had or ever meant to give him. You may perhaps have experienced the misery of a dependant's dining at the table of his patron, where the tortures of *Tantalus* are aggravated by anxiety of giving offence. I shall therefore hasten over this, and the other scenes of that evening, which were but the common occurrences of military greatness, and ended in a deep debauch, as soon as all but the *chosen few* had retired, to come to the conclusion of my *late* master's story, in which my *present* bore a considerable part.

As

As soon as the general had slept off the fumes of his wine, and awoke next morning, my master's hour of influence arrived, which he never failed to improve. After a prelude of coughing and spitting, the scene opened thus, '*Who's there? William!*'—
 'Sir,'—'*William, was not I very drunk last night? my head aches most confoundedly.*'—
 'Your excellency was a little cut, but you broke up much the strongest of the company.'—'*Aye, I wonder at that, I spend myself with talking, when I begin to go, and that helps a man on damnably: that story of the battle, where I was taken prisoner, is a bottle in my way always.*'—'*That foreign gentleman, who never speaks a word, has a great advantage then.*'—'*Aye, so he has; but he is a damned honest fellow, and a very good companion; he always fills a bumper and never speaks a word.—But my head.*'—
 'Perhaps your excellency had better take something'—'*No, I have taken too much already; though that's right; give me a glass of the old Geneva; I am to go to council to day, and must settle my head.—Aye, that will do, I am much better now; there is nothing like a hair of the old dog.*'

This conversation continued till he was seated to breakfast, when my master turned to a new topic. 'I was very sorry (said he) that your excellency happened to sit in last night, as Mrs. Motherly was to call'—
 'Why that's true, William; I did not think of one engagement when I made the other; and when she called me out, I was not in cue; I was too far gone. We old fellows

'are not sparrows; the spirit is often willing,
'when the flesh is weak; ha, ha, ha.'

'Your excellency is pleased to be merry,
'but to my thinking, the youngest fellow of
'the age has not more vigour'—'Aye,
'William, do you think so indeed? But why do
'you think so, William?'—'Because your ex-
'cellency always chuses such green things:
'now I should think a ripe woman would
'be better; I am sure she would give less
'trouble.'—'Ha, ha, ha, why that's your
'taste; but youth is mine; and while I have
'powers (and I do not think mine quite gone yet)
'I will please my taste. But what had Mrs.
'Motherly last night?'—'A very fine girl as
'your excellency could wish to see'—'How
'old?'—'About sixteen.'—'Fsha, mellow
'pears; I loath such trash.'—'But Mrs.
'Motherly said she could swear she was un-
'touched. She came from the country but
'yesterday, a relation of her own: the poor
'thing knew nothing of the matter, and
'thought she came to be hired for a laundry
'maid.'—'Why that is something; but I wish
'she were younger'—'If your excellency pleases
'but to wait a little, I have one in my eye
'that will suit your taste exactly; a sweeter
'child is not in all England'—'Aye, good Wil-
'liam (spitting once or twice, and wriggling
'in his chair) Aye, that is something; but
'how old?'—'Just ten, and finely grown'—
'Right, the right age. That's true! I'll
'speak this very day for that place for your
'brother. Tell him to come to-morrow; I
'will not be refused.'—'We are both obliged
'to your excellency for all your favours'—
'But

' But when shall I see this girl ? Give Mo-
 ' therly some excuse with her ripe fruit.
 ' Sixteen ! sixty ! psha ?—' Sir, I shall
 ' go about it this very evening. A letter
 ' from captain *Standard* ; will your excel-
 ' lency please to read it ?—*Damn him and*
 ' *his letter : throw it into the fire ! What*
 ' *would the unreasonable scoundrel have ?*
 ' *Did I not give him his dinner yesterday ? Has*
 ' *he not been introduced to good company at my*
 ' *table ? If he had any industry or spirit, with*
 ' *these advantages, he would have learned*
 ' *to play, and made his fortune as others do.*
 ' *Since he grows troublesome on encouragement,*
 ' *I'll starve him into better manners. Bid the*
 ' *porter strike him off the dinner list.*'—' I beg
 ' your excellency's pardon, for mentioning
 ' him ; but the manner I have heard you talk
 ' to him, made me imagine you really did
 ' design to provide for him ; and he says
 ' there is a vacancy in the regiment just now'
 ' —' *Damn his impudence ! a vacancy in-*
 ' *deed ! I shall never think there is a good one*
 ' *till he makes it at Tyburn.*'—' I beg your
 ' excellency's pardon : I shall never mention
 ' him more. Would you have me go about
 ' the *child* this evening ; it is a little angel to
 ' be sure—' *This moment if you think you can*
 ' *succeed.*'—' I shall try at any rate : but there
 ' is one obstacle'—' *What is that ? you know*
 ' *I never grudge money on these occasions.*
 ' *How much will do ?*'—That is not the diffi-
 ' culty here ; money will not do, and I hard-
 ' ly know what will'—' *Money not do ? Why*
 ' *what the devil can it be, that money will not*
 ' *do ?*'—' I scarce know how to mention it to
 ' your

' your excellency, but the little cherub is niece
 ' to captain *Standard*, his sister's daughter,
 ' and while he is in the way, there will be
 ' no possibility of getting at her'—*Is that all?*
 ' *He shall join the regiment to-morrow.*'—' But
 ' then he will leave such an impression of your
 ' unkindness upon his sister, if there is no-
 ' thing done for him, after waiting so long,
 ' that it will be impossible for any person be-
 ' longing to you to gain access.'—' *What*
 ' *would you have me do? I never will bear to*
 ' *have the fellow get a company in my regiment:*
 ' *that would be acknowledging the obligations he*
 ' *has the impudence to say I received from his*
 ' *father; I never will bear it.*'—' I beg your
 ' excellency's pardon; I did not presume to
 ' point out any such thing, and indeed the
 ' possession of such a *baby* (though my eyes
 ' never beheld her fellow) is not worth your
 ' giving yourself so much trouble about; she
 ' is quite too young; though so well grown'—
 ' *You say she is but just ten! and such a beau-*
 ' *ty!*'—' I wish your excellency could but see
 ' her, for I am unable to describe her'—' *But*
 ' *cannot some way be found out, beside fixing*
 ' *this fellow under my nose?*'—' That was just
 ' what I was going to take the liberty of hint-
 ' ing to your excellency. There are several
 ' gentlemen of fortune, in the troops just or-
 ' dered to *America*, who have no liking to
 ' the voyage. Now I think, with submission,
 ' that you would oblige some of them, with
 ' an exchange into your regiment, and let cap-
 ' tain *Standard* go in his place. And this will
 ' oblige him to; for I have often heard him
 ' wish to go there, in hopes of rising, when
 ' they come into action.—' *A good thought!*
 ' and

‘ and so I will. Let the fellow go to America
 ‘ and get scalped; his hot head wants to be
 ‘ cooled: such poor wretches as he are just fit
 ‘ to be transported there. Tell him to prepare
 ‘ directly! I long to be rid of him. But
 ‘ when shall I see the dear little creature?—
 ‘ In twenty-four hours after he is gone, I’ll
 ‘ undertake to have her eating sugar plumbs,
 ‘ and sobbing in your bosom. It cannot
 ‘ possibly be sooner, for you know the cap-
 ‘ tain’s spirit, and that he would cut the throat
 ‘ of a prince, who should dishonour his fa-
 ‘ mily, as he calls it.’—‘ Aye, damn his spirit,
 ‘ that is true; that is what has kept me civil
 ‘ to the fellow so long: I know he has all the
 ‘ romantic madness about honour, and such stuff,
 ‘ that made his fool of a father live and die a
 ‘ beggar.’

By this time his excellency was dressed, to go to council, for which another dram settled his head.

I see your surprize, at the brutal behaviour of the master, and the infamous designs of the man. The former is beyond aggravation; but the latter were only an innocent artifice in favour of his friend, who had no such niece in the world.

C H A P. II.

The history of Mr. WILLIAM. Some odd circumstances in his conduct accounted for. By a progression equally polite and frugal, CHRYSAL comes from his possession into that of a celebrated female.

WILLIAM was a son of the regiment, born of one of the general wives that followed it. He was about the same age with *Standard*, who had taken such a liking to him, when they were boys, that he shared his allowance with him, gave him his old cloaths, and taught him what he learned at school. A natural acuteness of genius improved these advantages so well, that *William* could read and write enough for a gentleman; dance, fence, and scrape on the violin, before his friend's power of serving him was put an end to, by the death of his father; and his spirit and appetites were too great, to accept of his offer, of the best support an ensign could spare him, to maintain him as a *cadet*, till his merit should get him a commission. But though he would not accept, he did not forget the offer, nor make his obligations a cause of hatred, now that it was in his power to make some return; a way of thinking, that proved the meanness of his birth; for quitting the barren paths of military honour, he had turned his genius to the more thriving profession of a footman; through the various ascents of which, he had risen to his present rank, of his excellency's gentleman;

man ; in which he had the unfashionable gratitude to return the favours of his former benefactor in the above manner, which his experience and knowledge of his master's temper convinced him to be the only one he could hope to succeed in. As to his promise about the child, he was in no pain about that, there being no person who could contradict whatever excuse he should please to give.

There is one circumstance, which I see puzzles you, in the character of this man, and that is his taking *me* from his friend, when he must be sensible how badly he could spare such a sum. But you must consider the power of nature when strengthened by habit.

From his mother, *William* had inherited venality, which the bribery of vails, in his present profession, had confirmed beyond all possibility or correction ; so that it was no more in his power to refuse a guinea when offered to him, than to change his stature or complexion. And attention to this observation would take off the wonder, and ease the world from the trouble of the exclamations that are daily made against the rapacity of persons in office, for as such are generally taken from the class of *William*, it cannot be expected but they must act from the same natural principles with him.

I see the depravity of human nature, when stripped of disguise and ornament, affects your unexperienced heart too strongly. But consider, that *we* see things as they really are, and to represent them otherwise to you, would invert the design of my mission

mission, and confirm, rather than remove the prejudices that lead astray the mind of man.

However, this consolation I can give you, that the vices I have already drawn, and may hereafter draw to your view, are not particular to this age or country: they are the weeds which in every age and clime, have always, and always will, over-run the human heart.

Nor is it just to call them vices (though in compliance with the language of men I do call them so) which *perhaps* are but * necessary parts of this universal system; and though in a particular instance, and viewed by themselves, they may appear deformed, yet when thrown into the general representation of things, they may have their beauty and use, if only to diversify the scene: and with respect to men in particular, be as † advantageous to the community as they are prejudicial to individuals.

But to return to my master *William*. Beside the advantages of education, he had such from nature, that he was not only the most accomplished *gentleman*, but also the handsomest fellow of his time; an happiness of which he availed himself so well in the *polite* world, that he was the favourite of all the *compliant* fair, who shared with him the

* From hence it should seem, the hint of a late treatise, on the origin of evil, was borrowed or else dictated by the same spirit.

† Fable of the bees.

pleasures they only suffered from his superiors for hire.

Of this I saw sufficient proof that very evening, when he went to an assignation with the most celebrated courtesan of the age; who sacrificing avarice to pleasure, gave orders to be denied to every body, and shut herself up with him, to give a loose to joy for the evening.

This was a scene too sensual for a spirit to describe: I shall therefore only say, that their fatigue and waste of spirits were recruited with the highest delicacies and richest wines, and the pauses of joy enlivened with the recital of the adventures of their professions, heightened with the most poignant ridicule of those whose folly was *their* fortune.

Before satiety could pall their pleasures, time summoned them to business. The fair, to prepare for the reception of her *friend*; and *my* master to wait on *his*; when, to conclude the evening with proper gallantry, he presented me to the maid at the door.

I was a good deal surprised, at being received with less emotion by this portress of *Venus* than I had ever found before; the sight of me having always raised joy. But this was soon explained, when, on returning to her mistress, she threw me on the table, and received a shilling in exchange. An instance of that methodical œconomy which by many small savings makes up for one large expence, and extracts profit even from pleasure.

The

The joy of the mistress seemed to make amends to my vanity for the indifference of her maid, and promise me the full possession of her heart, but I soon found myself mistaken, and that her love for me was only while I was the property of another ; for no sooner did I become her own, than she threw me carelessly into her purse, and turned her thoughts immediately to the acquisition of more. But though I lost the greatest part of my power over her, by coming into her possession, I still found ample room in her heart for my abode.

The apartments were scarce got in order, and my mistress new dressed, when her *friend* appeared, to whom she flew with all the appearance of rapture. But however he might be deceived, the difference was plain to me, between the joyless caresses she sold to him, and the extacy she shared with my late master, the glow of whose kisses yet reeked upon her lips. Nor was this strange : the ardor of her lover met her half way, and communicated as much fire as it received ; but with her *keeper* the case was quite otherwise : all the advances were to come from her ; all her caresses were a duty ; nor were the tenderest she could bestow, able to warm him to the least return.

You wonder, that a person in such circumstances should be at the expence and trouble of *keeping* a mistress, whose extravagance was to be equalled only by her insolence. But this is only a small instance of the tyranny of fashion : and how will your astonish-

ment be increased, when I tell you, that this very man, in the prime of life, was remarkable for the coolness of his constitution, and now in its decline was married to a beautiful young lady, whose resentment at his conjugal neglect rose so high, as to charge it to inability, and perhaps, to return it with infidelity.

Whether this was really the case, and that he kept my mistress to hide it, as a failing tradesman sets up a coach, or whether the passion remained, but so feebly supported, as to require the lascivious blandishments of a prostitute, I cannot determine, as I was never in his possession, to take a view of his heart.

C H A P. III.

The manner in which CHRYSALE's new mistress received and took care of her friend. How she employed herself while he was asleep. Her management of him next morning.

IT was about two in the morning when my mistress received him drunk and stupefied with play, at which he had lost deeply that night. On his coming into her room, he threw himself into a chair, without saying a word, or shewing the least sensibility of her caresses; where after some time, he fell fast asleep, which my mistress no sooner perceived, than calling her maid to undress and roll

roll him into bed, ' Here *Jane* (said she) take
' my place, by this heap of mortality. I'll
' step to ——— street; perhaps the com-
' pany may not be all gone. Never fear,
' I'll insure you from a rape! He wants
' nothing in a bed-fellow but to keep him
' warm, and you may do that, while I
' pass my night better than in nursing his
' infirmities; I'll be home before he stirs.'

Jane obeyed her mistress, who slipped into
a chair, and went away directly to an house,
where she used to piddle away her leisure
hours with any chance customers, rather than
be idle.

About five ended this scene, in the rites
of which my mistress bore a distinguished
part. I shall not attempt to describe these
mysteries: they were too gross for my rela-
tion, as well as your conception, in your
present mortified habit. She then returned
home, and laying her *pure* body in her maid's
place, beside her *friend*, who had not stirred
yet, her fatigues soon threw her into a sleep,
as sound as his.

It was noon before these fond lovers
awoke: the first was my mistress, who en-
raged that any thing which bore the name
of man, should shew so little sensibility of
her charms, resolved to teize him with en-
dearments, which, as he was seldom in a
humour to return in kind, he never failed to
pay for in a more substantial manner.

When she had awoke him with her toying,
the *siren* thus began her song: ' How can
' my dearest sleep so long, when his little

' girl lies languishing by his side! O turn,
 ' and let me lay my head on that dear bo-
 ' som.'—*Ha! what is it o'clock?* (replied
 the lover, yawning, and rubbing his eyes)—
 ' Alas I know not! I have told so many
 ' tedious hours, that I've forgot them: but
 ' what is time to us, who only live to love?'
 —*Past 12! I must be gone! some busi-*
 ' *ness!*—*Business!* leave that for duller
 ' souls, who have no taste for pleasure:
 ' can you leave love and me for business?'
 —*I am sorry I happened to oversleep*
 ' *myself, my dear; I believe I was bewitched,*
 ' *to drink so much; but we'll make it up ano-*
 ' *ther time.*'—*So you say always; but*
 ' *that other time will never come: but I*
 ' *will not be served so; I am flesh and*
 ' *blood, whatever other people may be;*
 ' *and you yourself know, it is not for want of*
 ' *friends, I keep myself up, thus like a nun,*
 ' *for you; and all, I do not know for*
 ' *what!*'—*Is the girl mad? Do not I give*
 ' *you every thing you want, every thing you*
 ' *desire?*'—*No, nor any thing I desire!*
 ' *I desire now—So, you will get up and leave*
 ' *me: I will not be used thus: you have*
 ' *got some other woman: but I here give*
 ' *you fair warning, that I will be even with*
 ' *you! Sir George was here yesterday; and*
 ' *so was the young lord—but I would not*
 ' *see either of them: and I am well re-*
 ' *quited now: but I know where to send to*
 ' *them: I will not be made a fool of every*
 ' *way, for nothing; and so you may sleep*
 ' *whereyou please, I care not.*'—*Come*
 ' *my dear, let us not fall out for nothing; you*
 ' *have*

‘ have not shewn me the diamond ear-rings
 ‘ you got last week.’——‘ No, my dear,
 ‘ they are not come home.’——‘ I thought
 ‘ you told me they were finished when I gave
 ‘ you the money to pay for them.’——‘ They
 ‘ were so; but when he brought them home,
 ‘ I did not like them. The jeweller told
 ‘ me, they were not so fine as those he
 ‘ made for your lady, some time ago; so I
 ‘ sent them back, and ordered him to make
 ‘ me a pair that should be as good as her’s
 ‘ at least.’——‘ Not good enough, child!
 ‘ were they not to cost 150 l.’——‘ And what
 ‘ is 150 l.—Sir Richard gave his girl a pair
 ‘ that cost 500; but if you think these are
 ‘ too dear, you are not obliged to pay for
 ‘ them: there is another, who will be glad
 ‘ to do it.’——‘ And pray what are these
 ‘ fine ones to cost?’——‘ Why—only—but
 ‘ kiss me first—only 200 l. But then I have
 ‘ bespoke a necklace with them’——‘ Zounds,
 ‘ a diamond necklace!’——‘ And what mighty
 ‘ matter is a diamond necklace? Pray has
 ‘ not your wife one? But I see how it is;
 ‘ you think any thing good enough for me;
 ‘ and nothing good enough for her: but
 ‘ every one does not think so: I am not at
 ‘ a loss.——‘ Well, you saucy little minx;
 ‘ and what do they all come to?’——‘ Ano-
 ‘ ther kiss, and I’ll tell you.—why—don’t
 ‘ frown; or I won’t tell you at all;—only
 ‘ 500 l.’——‘ 500 devils; that’s more than
 ‘ my wife’s cost by 100.’——‘ And do not
 ‘ you love me 100 times better than your
 ‘ wife? I have given up thousands for you.
 ‘ But, as I said before, you need not pay

' for them, if you do not chuse it: there
 ' are others who will: I see I am slighted;
 ' and I deserve it, for slighting so many
 ' good offers: but I will not always be a
 ' fool!'—' Well, my dear, for this one
 ' time I will humour you: give me the pen
 ' and ink: but you must not expect that I shall
 ' ever gratify your extravagance so far
 ' again.'—' I thank you, my lord; I
 ' shall not trouble you again this great while.
 ' But what is this? 350 l.! you have made
 ' a mistake, my lord; I told you 500 l.'—
 ' Well child, did I not give you 150 to pay for
 ' the other pair?'—' Yes, my lord; but that
 ' was not to pay for this pair though, you
 ' know these are dearer.'—' But that and
 ' this will.'—' I am afraid not.'—' How so,
 ' child; do not 150 and 350 make 500?'—
 ' Indeed I am a poor accomptant; but I
 ' know it will not do.'—' No! why so;
 ' I do not understand you.'—' I'll kiss you
 ' first, and then I'll tell you.'—' Psha; cease
 ' fooling; I am in haste; I must go to court;
 ' and have scarce time to dress: where is the
 ' 150 l.?'—' There (kissing him)'—
 ' Where?'—' Gone, as that kiss is; all
 ' gone, and only the relish left behind, to
 ' give an appetite for more.'—' Infernal
 ' jade!' (aside)—' What do you say, my
 ' lord?'—' That I cannot, will not bear such
 ' extravagance.'—' I am glad I know your
 ' mind, my Lord: then if you do not, some-
 ' body else will, who will not make such a
 ' stir about trifles.'—' Well, give me that
 ' bill.'—' No, thank you, my dear.'—
 ' Why

‘Why so?’———*‘For fear you should be a bold boy, and not return it. If you please to give me the other 150 l. I’ll get the necklace and earrings; if not, this will serve for some other use.’*———*‘Damnation! and then I must give it to her all over again’* (aside).———*‘Well, my lord; you said you were in haste, and so am I.’*———*‘Give me the pen and ink: there it is you little ter-magant: but once more let me caution you against such extravagance for the future.’*
———*‘And once more, let me tell you, my lord, not to give yourself such airs: extravagance! they that will have delicacies, must pay for them: and if you think the price too dear, there are more customers in the market; and so, my lord, like it, or like it not, I will be supported; and more than that, what I want in pleasure, shall be made up in profit: let wives save, who may be the better for the savings, our business is to make hay while the sun shines.’*———*‘Come, my dear; let us have no disputes: you have the money now; next time we will clear off the other score: give me a kiss, I’ll call in the evening, and take a dish of tea with you: farewell’*———*‘Good morrow’*———(after he is gone) for an old impotent, poor-spirited letcher, that must be treated like a dog, to make you know your duty. What fool would ever be at the trouble of behaving well to any fellow, when she can, so much better, mould him to her pleasure by ill usage?’

C H A P. IV.

The history and character of CHRYSALE's mistress. She gives him to a noted matron. Some account of his new mistress, and her manner of managing her family.

THIS principle she acted up to, for two days that I was in her possession, without any other variation in her conduct, than just what was necessary to work on the various tempers of her lovers, making no real difference between them, except it was, that she always used those worst, who used her best.

I have often told you, that sensuality is disagreeable to a spiritual being. I therefore longed to quit this mistress, the succession of whose amours was so constant and quick, that I was astonished how nature could afford a fund of love for them all, in so young a creature, for she was not 20 years old.— I see you have a curiosity to know the history of this young votary of Venus, in which you think there must be something extraordinary: but you are deceived; it contains nothing but common occurrences.

She was the daughter of trades-people, in moderate circumstances, whose foolish fondness, because she was a pretty, smart child, gave her an education above her rank, in hopes of her making her fortune by marriage.

This raised the vanity, natural to the female heart, so high, that she despised her own station, and not being so fortunate as immediately

diately to climb to the one she desired, by the way proposed, she fell an easy victim to the first seducer, who promised it, in any other.

Thus the accomplishments, by which the injudicious tenderness of her parents meant to raise her into a rank higher than her own, became the cause of her falling into that of the lowest of all human beings: a fall, though deplorable in itself, yet unaffecting to her, as the time, in which her mind should have been formed to virtue, was given up to the nourishing that vanity which proved her ruin; so that she is absolutely insensible of the wretchedness of her condition, and never has the pursuit of her most infamous profession disturbed by a moment's remorse.

I told you of her spending the hours that were unemployed at home, at an house in ——— street, where she was always sure of business. Though this venerable mansion was dedicated to the mysterious rights of unrestrained love, yet as the priests of all temples expect to live by the offerings made at them, her conscience would not permit the priestesses of this to break through an ordinance, so long established, and she exacted fees from the votaries of her's: not indeed a tythe, indiscriminately from all, whether they received benefit from their devotion, or not; but always in proportion to the fruits they reaped.

At this shrine was I offered, the third night of my being in possession of this young devotee, when the plenteousness of her gain,
from

from a multitude of lovers, seemed, to her piety, to merit so rich a return.

I now entered into a much more extensive scene than my last, the prostitution of which made but a small part of the business of the profession. But what I have related in the history of my late mistress, shall suffice for that branch, nor shall I give more than some outlines of the horrors of the rest.

My new mistress had originally been of the sisterhood of my last, who having fallen a prey to lust, almost in her infancy, and having no beauty, nor any thing but extreme youth to recommend her, as soon as that was worn out, neglect obliged her to apply to other business for bread, and her natural turn determining her to this, as well as the outrageous virtue of the *undiscovered* part of her own sex, excluding her from every other, she changed her occupation, from *yielding*, to *providing* pleasure, in which her success was so great, that she soon became the most eminent of her profession.

It was near five in the morning, when I changed my service; and business being ended, my late mistress having reigned *sole mistress* of the night, and seen out all the company, there remained nothing to do, after she went home, but to see the inmates to their truckle-beds in the cock lofts, where stripping off every part, not only of the finery, but even of the comforts of dress, they were crowded three or four together, to keep each other warm, under a ragged coverlet, upon a bare mattress, where their shudder-
ings

ings and groans made a just contrast to the spirited wickedness of their conversation some hours before.

This was always the fate of those who were not so successful in the evening as to earn the price of a better bed, above the fees of the house, and hire of cloaths.

These happy few were treated with fondness, while they squandered their poor *peculium* in a drop of cordial to settle their heads, and were lodged in apartments suited to their purses ; though the night before perhaps they had experienced the same fate with their sisters above stairs, and knew they must expect it again the next, if unsuccessful in their business.

When matters were thus settled, this happy family disposed themselves to take the best repose which disease in mind and body would permit.

An active spirit disdains rest. Though debauchery had anticipated old age, in the constitution of my mistress, yet her application to business, made her refuse nature even necessary indulgence. She was ready to go out before ten that morning, when the modest decency of her dress and appearance were such as drew the general good opinion, and would almost deceive the *devil* himself, on whose most favourite service she was going.

C H A P. V.

CHRYSALE's mistress pays a visit to the last place she could have been suspected for going to. She meets a young lady, with whom, by an artifice, she goes home. Her schemes to ensnare the lady.

IF a judgment were to be formed for the whole day, from the manner of beginning it, my mistress should have spent her's most happily ; her first visit being to church, where the piety of her behaviour was an edification to the devout matrons, who having nothing to do at home, meet there regularly, to compare their aches and dreams of the night before, and enjoy the innocent amusement of a little gossiping over the affairs of their neighbours.

But her devotion wasted not itself so fruitlessly : her industry had formed expectations of drawing considerable advantage from it, and so anticipating futurity, and making sure of the reward here, which others waited for in another world. — The immediate motive of her devotion, this morning, was to see a young lady with whom she had commenced an acquaintance at this church, and who constantly attended divine service there. You are surprized how she could think of going to such a place, on such an errand ; but the wolf roams about for prey every where, and is often most successful, where his attempts are least suspected : though I must rob her
industry

industry of the merit of design in the first introduction to this affair.

Going through *St. Martin's Lane* one morning, about a month before, she was so struck with the appearance of a lovely young creature, in widow's-weeds, who was going into the church, that she followed her; where the fervency, with which she poured out her soul in devotion, gave such a lustre to her beauty, and made it shine so lovely through her grief, that my mistress immediately marked her for her *list*, not doubting but she should be able to turn her distress to such advantage, as should bring her into her measures, and make her beauty yield her a rich return for her pains, from some of her customers. If you consider the nature of woman-kind, you will not wonder at this instance of the profligacy of my mistress. They are ever in extremes; either the best or worst of human creatures.—From church she dogged her to her lodging, in a little court, where she lived with a poor, but honest family, in such privacy, that no one in the neighbourhood could give any account of her.

Real virtue shines with a lustre that dazzles the most confirmed vice, and keeps it at an awful distance. My mistress, hardened as she was in all the ways of sin and impudence, dared not to go directly to her without some business or introduction: but as she had not either, her ready genius prompted her to win her good opinion, under an appearance of religion, and then an acquaintance would come easily.

She was not deceived in her expectations: a few mornings constant attendance at church, and

and the exemplary warmth of her devotions, struck the eye, and opened the heart of unexperienced innocence to the acquaintance she wished for, which she did not fail to improve, by the same arts, to some degree of intimacy.

In this situation they were, when she went, but without any appearance of design, to meet her this morning at church, as usual. As they came out together, my mistress, turning with her fair *friend*, said she had some business into *Long-Acre*, and asked her, if she went that way, to which the young lady innocently answered, that she did, and should be glad to walk with her.

As they walked together, my mistress turned her conversation on the wicked ways of the town, and particularly the many base designs that were laid to insnare unwary innocence, adding, that all the pleasure which sensuality could give the most luxurious heart, must fall infinitely short of what she felt at that very moment, in the design she was then going upon, of relieving the distresses of a worthy family.

She had timed her discourse so as to say these words, just as she came to the entrance of the court, in which she knew the widow lived; when, feigning to slip, she fell all along, crying out, as in the utmost agony, that she had wrenched her ankle.

The lady, raising her with the greatest tenderness, expressed her concern for the unhappy accident, and desired she would submit to be helped into *her* lodgings, which fortunately were at the next door, where, though she could be but poorly accommodated, she might be more at her ease, than in a more sumptuous place,

place, and should have all the care in her power. This was just what my mistress had schemed for, who countenously accepting of the offer, made a shift to limp in, without any other assistance than her's.

It raised my indignation to see the tenderness with which the beautiful young creature pulled off her shoe and stocking, and chafed her ankle, thrown away upon so unworthy an object, as it did my abhorrence to hear the counterfeit shrieks and groans of my mistress, and the assurance with which she attributed the swellings caused by debauchery, to this immediate accident.

This affrighted the young lady so, that she in a manner forced her to send for a surgeon, which with much intreaty she yielded to do, but it must be for a *friend* of her own, a gentleman who lived a considerable way off, at the polite end of the town, for she could not think of letting any *common low-lived* fellow come near her.

Upon this, a porter was directly dispatched for her *own* surgeon, and in the mean time, as she began to grow easier, she recovered her spirits, and renewed the conversation that had been broken off by this accident.

' I was telling you, my dear friend (said she) for so I shall ever call you from this moment, your kindness having compleated the conquest which your beauty had before made of my heart, I was telling you, that I was going to visit a family this morning, where I promised myself the highest joy that a human heart is capable of feeling, in lightening the distress of the virtuous, by sharing

ing

‘ing with them some of that wealth which
‘heaven has abundantly blessed me with, and
‘which can justly be applied to no other use,
‘than making this grateful return to that good-
‘ness which bestowed it.

‘But my heart was too elate with the thought,
‘and I receive this accident as a caution from
‘heaven not to flatter myself with any thing
‘so strongly for the future. But though I
‘could not have this pleasure myself, the be-
‘nefit shall not be delayed to them. I will
‘make you my *almoner*; an office that I know
‘will suit the goodness of your heart. You
‘shall give this packet, which will put an end
‘to all their distresses.’

‘Oh madam! your good opinion is the
‘greatest honour to me (replied the lady) and
‘I hope I shall never forfeit it, especially in
‘this commission, which I shall undertake with
‘the most sincere joy; but pray dear madam,
‘who are the persons to whom I must dispense
‘your goodness?’

‘That’s true, my dear (returned my mis-
‘tress) I should give you some account of
‘them, that you may be the better able to
‘judge of the joy I feel in serving them.
‘It is the widow of an officer, who has been
‘killed in this war, and left her with three
‘poor babes, destitute of every support, but
‘the allowance of the government, which,
‘wretched as it is, and only aggravating mi-
‘sery by barely prolonging life under it, is of-
‘ten gasped for by the hungry mouth in vain,
‘where interest is wanting to procure the im-
‘mediate relief of it, as was her unhappy case,
‘so that they must have actually perished for

‘want

‘ want of food, had not providence brought
‘ them into my knowledge, seemingly by the
‘ greatest accident, about six months ago, since
‘ when, I have myself afforded them the ne-
‘ cessary comforts of life, and have also made
‘ such interest for them, with some of my
‘ friends, that I have here got them a grant of
‘ a pension, on the *Irish establishment*, suffi-
‘ ent to bring up the children, and make the
‘ remainder of the mother’s days happy; for,
‘ my dear, I never do any thing by halves—
‘ Good God, child! what is the matter with
‘ you? what do you weep for?—

‘ *Nothing, dear madam* (replied the lady)
‘ *nothing; I only sympathize in the distress of*
‘ *the poor widow.*’——‘ But, my dear, that
‘ distress is now at an end.’——‘ *O madam,*
‘ *let me carry her the blessing! let me not de-*
‘ *lay her happiness a moment! Who knows but*
‘ *her heart is this minute bursting with the*
‘ *dreadful apprehensions, of want for herself,*
‘ *and her dearer infants!*’——‘ With all my heart
‘ madam; but you will please to order a chair
‘ to be called to carry me home, when you
‘ go; for I cannot stay here alone.’——‘ *Dear*
‘ *madam, forgive my rudeness; I beg your*
‘ *pardon, pray forgive me: the distress of the*
‘ *widow put every thing out of my head; in-*
‘ *deed it did; pray excuse me.*’——‘ Excuse
‘ you, my dear, I honour the heart that feels
‘ another’s woe; you shall go directly; you
‘ shall be the messenger of glad tidings to them.
‘ But my dearest young lady, give me leave to
‘ tell you, that I fear you have not answered
‘ me sincerely; I fear your tears flow from
‘ some other cause, than mere sympathy;
‘ speak,

' speak, my child! does any thing affect your
 ' own heart? Can I any way be serviceable to
 ' you? Command me freely, and make me
 ' happy in serving one for whom my heart has
 ' conceived so tender an esteem! Speak as
 ' you would to your own mother, and wrong
 ' not my friendship with a doubt.'—*'O ma-*
' dam, madam! (replied the mourner, as soon
' as sobbing permitted utterance) I have no mo-
' ther to make my complaint to; I am the
' wretched widow you have described! A wi-
' dow without support, without friends, or any
' other hope, than just in heaven!'—*'And*
' heaven will raise you friends, my dearest
' child! heaven has raised you a friend in me!
' You shall be my child! I look upon you as
' my own! as a gift from heaven, from this
' moment! You shall leave this place this ve-
' ry day! it is not fit for my child! I will
' take a lodging for you, near myself, till my
' nephew, who is lately come to town to see
' me, goes home; and then you shall live with
' me for ever.'

Saying these words, she threw her arms
 round her destined victim, and wiped away
 the tears that flowed down her cheeks, while
 a variety of passions filled her tender heart
 almost to bursting.

C H A P. VI.

The history of the young lady. She is critically interrupted by the arrival of an unexpected person. She is reconciled to her father, who rewards the woman of the house, and resolves to punish the bawd.

W H E N she had recovered herself a little, my mistress thus resumed her lore ;
 ‘ Weep not my dearest child, all will be well.
 ‘ And have you any dear little infants too ?’—
 ‘ Oh no ! my wretchedness, thank heaven, is all
 ‘ my own !’—‘ But may I, my dear, ask your
 ‘ name, and the circumstances of your story !
 ‘ I would know all, that nothing may be un-
 ‘ redressed.’——‘ You are all goodness, ma-
 ‘ dam ! My story, alas, has few circumstances,
 ‘ and they are all distresses ! I lost my mother
 ‘ while I was yet a child : my father left me
 ‘ in the country to the care of a governess, the
 ‘ wife of his chaplain, who educated me in the
 ‘ sentiments of piety and virtue. When I was
 ‘ scarce fourteen, I returned the love of her son,
 ‘ the most deserving and most lovely of his sex,
 ‘ who was two years older than me : but young
 ‘ as we were, we concealed our passion, till my
 ‘ father obtained him a commission in the army ;
 ‘ when, on the regiment being ordered to A-
 ‘ merica, I yielded to his fears of losing me,
 ‘ and consented to a private marriage, which
 ‘ was soon discovered by a letter falling into
 ‘ my

' my father's hands, who in his rage, turned
 ' my husband's father and mother, and me, out
 ' of doors, nor would ever see us more. A small
 ' vicarage afforded us a present support. My
 ' mother-in-law soon died; the suspicion of
 ' her having betrayed the confidence of my fa-
 ' ther, and been instrumental in my marriage,
 ' breaking her heart; as did the account of my
 ' husband's death, his father's. I then was
 ' left quite destitute; and have since supported
 ' a wretched being, by my work, which the ho-
 ' nest woman of this house takes in for me, with-
 ' out the least hope of relief in this world, till
 ' your goodness has, this day taken compassion
 ' on me'—' And what is your father's name,
 ' my dear'—' That I have never yet revealed,
 ' as I would willingly hide the disgrace, my
 ' distress may be thought to him; but with you
 ' I need not use that caution; his name is'—

Just at this word, the surgeon, who had been sent for, to my mistress, entered, and presented a new scene.

At the first sight of this person, the young
 lady gave a great shriek, and swooned away.
 The gentleman stood a moment stupified with
 astonishment, when turning hastily to my mis-
 tress, ' Is this the lady?' (said he)—' Aye,
 ' and a lovely one she is (answered she) but
 ' help me to raise her up, when you will see
 ' her better; she has been just telling me her
 ' story, and the grief of it has overcome her!
 ' it is a moving one; and she must be our
 ' own.'

' Oh, my child! my child!' (exclaimed he in
 a transport) and spurning my mistress from her
 with his foot, raised her himself, and leaned
 her head upon his bosom, kissing her, and al-
 most

most smothering her with his tears. 'Oh my poor child! what have you escaped! what have you endured!'

It is impossible to describe the situation of my mistress at this scene. She saw the error she had been guilty of, in introducing a woman to whom she was a stranger; and was aware of the danger, with which the horror of such an interview on such an occasion, threatened her. While therefore the father seemed wrapped in an extacy, that made him as insensible as his daughter, she thought it her best way to retire from the first burst of his anger, and forgetting her sprained ankle, was going directly away; but he perceived her intent, and calling her with a voice, that nailed her to the ground, 'stir not, upon your life (said he) I will have this whole mystery cleared up.'

His daughter, just then, opening her eyes, and finding herself laid upon her father's bosom, love, respect, duty, fear, and joy, filled her heart with such a variety of passions, that she sunk under their weight, and swooned again.

This embarrassed the father almost to distraction, till the woman of the house coming in, with her assistance she was at length recovered, for my mistress was so terrified, that she did not dare to approach her.

As soon as the lady had lightened her heart by a flood of tears, she threw herself at her father's feet, unable either to look up, or speak to him. Moved with the mute eloquence of her grief, and melting in the warmth of nature, he raised her from the ground, and spoke to her in these words. 'Be comforted, my child!

' child! I am! I will be your father! But
 ' tell me what has passed between you and
 ' this vile woman!'—*'Oh Sir, is she not my
 ' best, my only friend? Has she not restored me
 ' to your love?'—*'Have a care child! she
 ' your friend! then you are lost beyond reco-
 ' very indeed! She is a reproach to her sex!
 ' to human nature!'——*'Oh sir! how can
 ' that be? did she not bring you here, to me?
 ' does not that shew her virtue, and compassion
 ' to my distress?'—*'Compose yourself a little,
 ' child! it is true, she brought me here; but
 ' tell me, I charge you, on what terms she told
 ' you, I was to come; and how she came to
 ' interest herself in your affairs! Fear not, but
 ' speak the truth.'

On this she told him the whole of her ac-
 quaintance with my mistress, and by what ac-
 cident, and in what character she imagined he
 had been sent for; but that, as soon as she saw
 him enter the room, she thought my mistress
 must have been acquainted with her story, and
 had taken this method of introducing her to
 him, in hopes the surprize, and sight at her
 distress, might operate on his compassion.

Truth forces conviction. He was satisfied
 with the account she gave him; and taking
 her again in his arms, 'I have found you a-
 ' gain, my child (said he) and I will never lose
 ' you more! Be the errors of your youth;
 ' be my severity forgotten! From henceforth
 ' you are *my* child, and I will be *your* father!
 ' as to that vile wretch, know, that her whole
 ' acquaintance, with you was sought with a pre-
 ' meditated design of betraying you to ruin.

' She

‘ She told me the whole, nearly as you have
‘ done; and encouraged by your distress, of
‘ which she had gotten some general hints,
‘ but ignorant who you were, she laid the
‘ scheme of this pretended accident, to get
‘ admission into your house; for she well
‘ knew where you lived; and then sent for
‘ me to a place I had appointed, that I might
‘ come and see you, under the appearance of
‘ a surgeon; that if I liked you, I might
‘ have the preference of her interest in you:
‘ for so deep had she laid her scheme, that
‘ you could not have-escaped her: the
‘ trial would have been too great for hu-
‘ man fortitude! and this most execrable
‘ mystery of iniquity did she undertake for
‘ the paltry reward of 50*l.* which I must
‘ take the shame upon myself to own, I had
‘ promised her, little imagining that I was
‘ bargaining for the seduction of my own in-
‘ nocent child. But I see, I acknowledge the
‘ hand of heaven in this whole affair, that has
‘ thus opened my eyes to the danger of such a
‘ licentious course of life, and made the reco-
‘ very of my child the means, and the reward
‘ of my conversion!

‘ Weep not, my dear; justly may you turn
‘ your eyes with detestation from such a fiend:
‘ But I shall take care that she meets a just
‘ reward; while you prepare to go home
‘ with me, for I will not leave you a mo-
‘ ment in this scene of horror.’——‘ Oh,
‘ mercy, mercy, my lord! (cried my mis-
‘ tress) have mercy on me! nor overwhelm

‘ with your anger a wretched creature,
 ‘ whose remorse is a load too great to bear.’
 ——— ‘ Away vile wretch (replied he, in a
 ‘ rage) nor dare to speak another word! and
 ‘ here fellow (calling to the porter who had
 ‘ directed him to the house) bring me the pa-
 ‘ rish constable.’

While the porter went for him, my mis-
 tress, wretched now indeed, her guilty fear
 magnifying her danger, stood trembling, but
 afraid to entreat his pity with another word.

After he had walked a turn or two about
 the room, his daughter entered, and with
 her the woman of the house with her little
 effects, which were soon packed up; at the
 sight of them his countenance softened:
 ‘ Well, my dear, (said he to his daughter) I
 ‘ see you are ready to come with me; but I
 ‘ must wait a moment to do justice to the
 ‘ wretch who brought me hither. Plead
 ‘ not for her! I would not have you ever
 ‘ sue to me in vain, again; and any thing
 ‘ in her favour I cannot yield! But my
 ‘ justice shall not be only severe, nor con-
 ‘ fined to her alone. You have said that
 ‘ this honest woman has been a friend to
 ‘ you! she shall be rewarded. Here, good
 ‘ woman, is the sum of money I was to have
 ‘ given this vile creature for my daughter,
 ‘ in another sense. Take it as the reward of
 ‘ your honesty and kindness to her, and call on
 ‘ her every year of your life for the same sum.’

The poor woman took it, with a reve-
 rence, but was unable to speak her grati-
 tude, her heart was so full, while his daugh-
 ter dropped suddenly on her knees, and rai-
 sing

sing her hands and eyes to heaven, exclaimed in rapture, *Oh pour thy blessings, heaven, on his head, who thus dispenses happiness on all who merit it.*——As she said these words, the constable came, into whose charge his lordship gave my mistress, to be taken to a justice of the peace, whither he appointed to follow her; and then handed his daughter into a coach, in which he took her directly home.

C H A P. VII.

The address of CHRYSAL's mistress, and civility of a constable. She arrives at the justice's, and is sifted and softened by his clerk, and terrified by his worship. CHRYSAL changes his service.

AS soon as this happy couple were gone, my mistress recovered her spirits, and smiled with contempt, at a danger she had often gone through before without harm. ‘And so (says she) master constable; I am given in charge to you! and for what pray? But I am no such novice, as to yield myself a prisoner, till I see proper authority to hold me; therefore, Sir, I shall wish you a good morning: if you please, you may go tell his lordship, that I was not at leisure to wait for him, at the justice's; and because you may be dry after your walk, here is a crown to drink my health.’

H 2

‘I thank

' I thank you mistress (replied the magi-
 ' strate, taking the money) but in the mean
 ' time, you must come ! I am sorry I cannot
 ' let you go.'——' *Cannot let me go ! pray*
 ' *Sir, where is your authority to keep me ?*'——
 ' Here, mistress ! (producing his staff)'——
 ' *But your warrant ?*'——' Oh ! as for
 ' that, I'll make bold to do without one this
 ' time ; and take you to the justice on my
 ' own authority, and his lordship's request ;
 ' and so, mistress, you had better come along,
 ' for I am in haste : you may have a coach
 ' if you please.'——' *Aye, so I will, to carry*
 ' *me home ; and here's something for you to*
 ' *pay the coachman* (putting a guinea into
 ' his hand)'——' 'Tis very well, mistress,
 ' I will see you safe home, to be sure, if you
 ' desire it ; and the justice gives you leave ;
 ' for to him we must go directly.'——' *Then*
 ' *give me my money ; and be assured you shall*
 ' *answer for this false imprisonment.*'——
 ' Your money, mistress ! why, aye ! so I
 ' will, if I do not earn it.'——' *Then let me*
 ' *go home this moment.*'——' No, no, mis-
 ' tress ! that I cannot do, till you have been
 ' to visit his worship ; and then I will see you
 ' safe home, if he gives me leave, and drink
 ' your health into the bargain ; and that was
 ' what you gave me money for : come,
 ' come, mistress ! one of your trade should
 ' know better things, than to ask for mo-
 ' ney back again ! Have I not shewed you
 ' all the civility in my power ? Do you think
 ' I would stand preaching with you here this
 ' hour for nothing ! come along, the coach is
 ' at the door.'

I saw

I saw you were surprized at the address and turn of expression in my mistress's conversation with this young lady, before the arrival of her father as above her sphere; but nature had given her a capacity equal to any thing, and her intercourse, with the *polite* world, had gained her an ease of behaviour and elegance of expression, that made every condition of life seem natural to her. As to the story of the family; whom she was going to relieve, she had actually prepared one of her confederates to have acted that part, so that the lord might justly say, her design was laid so well, that it was next to impossible for her to miss of success. For by this deceit she would have gained the young lady's confidence, to receive favours from her, and when she had her in her debt, she thought she could make her own terms.

As soon as my mistress and her conductor were come into the antichamber of justice, the clerk recognizing her, addressed her thus: 'Good-morrow, mistress——Pray what has got us the favour of your company? You have been so great a stranger of late, that I was beginning to think we had lost you,' —— 'Pray, Sir (said she) let me speak a word with you in the next room?' —— On which he ordered her to be shewn in, and only waited to ask the constable, by whom, and for what she was sent there, who was able to give him no other answer, than that the lord had ordered him to bring her, and said he would follow himself directly.

Having got this *full* information the clerk came into the room to my mistress, and told her with a look of importance and concern, that he was sorry to see her, on so bad an account.——‘ So bad an account, Sir ?’ (said she) why ! pray what do you think I am brought here for ? nothing in this world ! they can charge me with nothing but intention ; and I hope that is not punishable by the law !’——‘ I hope it will appear so (replied he) but shrugging up his shoulders) my lord has sent a message here, that has another appearance !——‘ And pray, Sir, what does my lord charge me with ?’——You’ll excuse my revealing the secrets of a privy counsellor ! He will be here too soon, I am afraid to tell you himself.’

Verfed as my mistress was in all the wiles of man, the look and manner of his saying these words, alarmed her conscious fears. ‘ Pray Sir (said she) what has his lordship said ? or, if you do not think proper to tell me that ; at least you can direct me how to make the best defence against his designs ! I shall not be ungrateful ! you know I never was.’——‘ Why that’s true, madam (replied he) and indeed I should take great pleasure in serving you, and getting you out of this *hole*, but my lord, you know, is a great man, and can, in a manner, do what he pleases with poor people.’——‘ Pray, Sir, can I speak a word to the justice ?’——‘ I fear he is engaged just now ; besides, it is so long since he has seen or heard from you, that I believe
‘ you

‘ must expect but little favour from him.’

—— ‘ *Why that is the very thing I would speak to him about; and believe me, it was my business out so early this morning, till I was delayed by this unlucky accident.*’ ——

—— ‘ As for that matter, you know you may say any thing to me, as well as to him, and I can tell him.’ —— ‘ *That is true; why, all I have to say to him at present, is to beg his acceptance of these five guineas for his past favours, and his advice how to get out of this scrape; and pray do you take these three for your trouble. I am sorry I have no more to offer, but really the times are very bad, and little or no money stirring among the gentlemen; beside, all my ladies have been very unlucky of late, and the doctor, you know, must be always paid in hand.*’ —— ‘ I am sorry things go so badly with you; I will speak to the justice, and let you know what he says, and you may depend on my friendship and interest at all times; though I am afraid this is a very bad affair. I will go to him directly, and return to you, as soon as possible.’

I here left my mistress to her meditations, having been one of the pieces she had given to the clerk. You may imagine I was glad to leave such a service, though I could not promise myself much pleasure, beside variety in the exchange, from what I had already seen of that, which I was entering into.

The justice was in his office, busied in examining the informations of some of his people, who had made some lucky *bits* the even-

ing before. On a wink from his clerk, they were all ordered to withdraw, when reaching me, and four more of my brethren, to his worship; 'Here, Sir (said he) five guineas from Mrs. ———!' ——— 'So then, (replied he) *she has thought proper to come at last.*' ——— 'To come? no, no, Sir! she has been brought, or else I believe you would have hardly seen her.' ——— 'The ungrateful jade: but what is the matter now?' ——— 'I really cannot well tell; nor does the constable know any more, than that my lord ——— ordered him to bring her, and said that he should follow himself.' ——— 'My lord? then I must be ready to receive him properly: He is a great man: quick! reach me my green velvet cap, red slippers, and new gown, and open half a score of those books, the largest of them, and lay them on that great table, as if I had been referring. There! now I look like a justice! and bid those gentry, I was speaking to, go backwards till my lord is gone: He must not see such faces; they might prejudice him against us; and he is a great man: so! now I'll open the NEW JUSTICE, and his lordship may come as soon as he pleases.'

Just as all things were thus prepared for his lordship's reception, in proper formality, a servant brought a note from him, to let his worship know, he could not come himself that morning, but desired he would take proper care of the woman he had ordered to be taken before him, who kept an
house

house of bad fame in such a street, where, upon the least enquiry he would not fail to find sufficient matter against her, from her neighbours.

Though his lordship's not coming was a disappointment to his worship, after the preparations he had made to receive him; and talked him of an important advertisement for the next morning, yet the general wording of his note gave him some consolation, as it might seem to authorize any measures he might please to take, to squeeze the criminal before him——' This may do (said he to his clerk) this may do something: but we must proceed with caution, for Mrs. —— is an old *band*: let her be called in; I'll *soften* her a little first, and then you may work upon her after as you please.'

As soon as she came in, his worship accosted her thus:—' So, mistress; this is a fine affair; I knew what your doings would come to, at last; I have often warned you; but you would take no advice: and now you see the consequence!—Do, make her *mittimus*! I must wait upon his lordship; and I cannot go till she is committed!—' *Committed! dear your worship, for what must I be committed? I have done nothing.*'——' No! to be sure you have done nothing! his lordship would prosecute you so severely for nothing: Look at this letter! do you know this handwriting? His lordship has here given me an account of the whole affair, and

‘ desired that I would proceed against
 ‘ you, with the utmost rigour of the
 ‘ law ! I have already sent to search your
 ‘ house.’

This word completed the terrors, into
 which the sight of his lordship’s well-known
 hand had thrown her ; and deprived her of
 all resolution and presence of mind. She
 burst into tears, and throwing herself on
 her knees, ‘ Oh, good your worship ! dear
 ‘ Mr. Clerk (said she) advise me : assist
 ‘ me to get over this misfortune ! here is
 ‘ my watch ; it cost 50 *l.* at a pawn-bro-
 ‘ ker’s but a month ago ; it is a repeater !
 ‘ take it, Mr. Justice ! Mr. Clerk, here
 ‘ are my rings ! they are the only valuable
 ‘ things I have : take them, and help me
 ‘ out at this dead lift : send, and stop the
 ‘ people from going into my poor house ;
 ‘ I shall be *blown up* ! the gentlemen will
 ‘ all desert me : I shall be ruined, just
 ‘ when I have brought things to a little
 ‘ bearing : help me but this once, and I ne-
 ‘ ver will give you cause to complain of
 ‘ me again : I will always be punctual to
 ‘ my promise.’

C H A P. VIII.

She is discharged on proper bail. The labours of CHRYSAL's new master, in the service of the public, with some of the various mysteries of his office.

THE work was now done, and a wink having settled the *cue* between the justice and his clerk, the latter began thus: ' If I may presume to advise your worship, though this is a very bad affair to be sure, yet as it is not quite felony, *by the statute*, I am humbly of opinion, that if bail could be got'——' *Dear Mr. Clerk, I am obliged to you.*'——' But then consider, my Lord is a great man.'——' That is true, please your worship; but the law is greater than any man, and the law is very tender of the liberty of the subject, and says expressly *in the statute In favore libertatis*, that no person shall be confined that can get bail; and beside, who knows, if she was at liberty, but she might find means to be reconciled to his lordship; and so all would be well.'——' *Dear Mr. Clerk, that is true; I could easily be reconciled to him; I know how to gain his favour, when his anger is a little cooled.*'——' Why, Mrs. if you are quite sure of that, I believe we may venture to bail you: but where are your friends?'——' *Dear your worship, I have no friends; I have nothing to make friends with;*

‘with; I throw myself upon you, gentlemen!’
 —‘Why really this is a nice case, but if
 ‘you’ll step into the next room, we will con-
 ‘sider what can be done for you.’—‘Oh! but
 ‘send and stop the man that went to my house!’
 —‘Never fear, they were not to go without
 ‘further orders.’

When she was gone out, ‘Well (said
 ‘the justice) this has been a good *bit*, it
 ‘makes up for the bad week: but cannot
 ‘you guess what this matter is?’—‘Not a
 ‘word of it (replied the clerk) she has not
 ‘dropped a syllable herself, that could let
 ‘me the least into it, and I would not disco-
 ‘ver my ignorance by asking her any ques-
 ‘tions. But I suppose it is only some trick
 ‘she has played my lord, about a girl, for
 ‘you know she has often told us, that
 ‘he was one of her best customers, and
 ‘boasted of his protection; and if it is no
 ‘more than that, as I imagine, he will
 ‘think no more of it, and so the best way is
 ‘to let her go, for indeed we cannot keep
 ‘her, if we would; though to keep up the
 ‘form, for fear she should *smell* us out, she
 ‘must have some bail: and therefore I’ll go
 ‘and fill a bond, and make a couple of our
 ‘people put on their BAILING CLOATHS,
 ‘and come and sign with her, though I do
 ‘not think she has money left to pay for the
 ‘bond, or make the fellows drink: but she
 ‘has done pretty well already, that is the
 ‘truth.’

Saying this, he went out, and in a little
 time returned with my late mistress, and two
 of the fellows, the shabbiness of whose ap-
 pearance had made his worship order them
 out

out of the lord's sight just before, now dressed out like reputable house-keepers, who gravely signed with my mistress, without ever asking what; and, upon her returning a negative shrug, to a wink from the clerk, went out without a word.

The business was now over, and my late mistress dismissed to follow her occupation, and make up, by double diligence, for the misfortunes of that morning, only with an assurance to the clerk, that she would remember his kindness, and be *punctual* for the future.

I was now entered into a service, where I had an opportunity of seeing into the whole mystery of justice: but you must not expect that I should reveal all the secrets of so venerable a trade; though I may give a few general hints for your information, in so abstruse and intricate a science.

The affair of my late mistress was the last of that morning. My worshipful master putting *me* into his purse, and going directly to dinner, which had *waited* for him some time. But though his fare was good, his care for the public would not permit him to make long meals, or debauch away his time. After a short refreshment of only two hours, he returned to his office, where he reassumed his labours, in all the various branches of his extensive employment.—

The first thing he looked into, was the *informations*, which the affair of my mistress had interrupted in the morning, as I told you before; when calling his people, one after another, before him, he went through them regularly in this manner: ‘*John Gib-*
‘*bet*, you here inform me that you have
‘*found*

‘ found out the person who took the gentleman’s hat, in the quarrel in *Chelfea* fields, last Sunday evening, which you think to make a robbery of: Let me hear the circumstances of that affair, for you are so keen a blood-hound, when you get upon any scent, that you are for making every thing robbery, be the case what it will.’

‘ Please your worship (replied *Gibbet*, turning the *quid* in his cheek, and squirting out the juice) I do all things for the best, and that you know; and that I have brought many things to bear, which nobody else would undertake, as witness that affair on *Sbuter’s-hill*, that got you so much credit, and money too.’——‘ *Why that is true, JOHN; but then YOU should remember also the cursed scrape you brought me into about the young fellow who wrote the threatening letters to the farmer about burning his barns; you undertook to prove that too: but you know how you left me in the lurch, after I had gone such lengths as had like to have ruined me. Plain swearing will not always do, though never so home; you should remember that: you should attend to circumstances also: but as to this affair, let me hear what you can make of it?*’

‘ Your worship must know, that I, and two or three more of our people, having nothing to do, *shammed* a quarrel, in which a gentleman, who was coming by, lost his hat. It was a large hat, with a very broad gold lace, such as your foreigners wear; it was I that shoved off the hat, and seeing a shabby idle-looking young fellow standing by without one, I took it

‘ up, and asking him if it was his, reached
‘ it to him, and saw him make off with it
‘ directly. Now if this is not a plain robbery,
‘ bery, I do not know what is! a fellow
‘ runs away with a gentleman’s hat, who
‘ advertises it, with a reward for taking the
‘ thief, whom he will prosecute! now I have
‘ found out the fellow’s haunts, for indeed
‘ I dogged him, and will have himself whenever
‘ you please, and can clench the prosecution,
‘ by swearing that I saw him carry off the hat;
‘ and you know I need say no more, nor take any notice who gave it to
‘ him.’

‘ *Why, JOHN, there may be something*
‘ *in this affair. I like it very well, JOHN!*
‘ *and so clerk, you may enter him on the list,*
‘ *for next sessions. This affair has a good*
‘ *look; nor is there any thing unjust in it; for*
‘ *though you gave him the hat; as he knew it*
‘ *was not his own, and yet carried it off, he is*
‘ *guilty of the theft, and that is the same as*
‘ *robbery, in justice, though it may not in law;*
‘ *and justice is the thing to go by with a safe*
‘ *conscience. And so you may go, John, I will*
‘ *let you know when it will be proper to have*
‘ *him taken up, only have an eye to him, for*
‘ *fear any one else should snap him out of our*
‘ *hands. — Who comes next! RICHARD*
‘ *SLY, you say you have found out the knot*
‘ *of young fellows that have began to infest the*
‘ *streets for some nights past.*’ — ‘ *Aye, please*
‘ *your worship (says Sly, shrugging up his*
‘ *shoulders, and grinning) I have found them*
‘ *out to be sure; and well I might! for it*
‘ *was I first set them on the lay.*’ — ‘ *How,*
‘ *RICHARD! take care of what you say!*’ —
‘ *Oh,*

' Oh, your worship, never fear *Dick Sly* for
 ' a slippery trick! I know what I say very
 ' well: I have known for some time that
 ' these youths have been playing a small
 ' game, cribbing from the *till*, and build-
 ' ing *sconces*, and such-like tricks, that there
 ' was no taking hold of; I therefore thought
 ' it would be right to bring them to justice,
 ' at any rate, and so laid the plan of this
 ' gang, and entered them into the business
 ' myself, and now, whenever you have a
 ' mind to *nub* them, you need only take me
 ' up, and I can *peach* them all, which will be
 ' no bad affair, there are so many of them.
 — ' *Why that is true, RICHARD; but they*
 ' *have done nothing yet that deserves so severe*
 ' *a remedy as the gallows! therefore let them*
 ' *alone; perhaps they may mend: or if they do*
 ' *not, it will be time enough to take them up*
 ' *when they deserve it more than now. To be*
 ' *sure, your peaching them, who first drew them*
 ' *in, is not so very just; but then the law will*
 ' *support you in it, and while a man has the*
 ' *law of his side, he may laugh at the gallows.*
 ' *And so RICHARD, have a good look out*
 ' *till these youths are ripe for TYBURN, and*
 ' *then your harvest will come.*'

It would be endless to go through this
 whole business particularly. Be it sufficient
 to say, that there was no breach of the laws,
 which some of his people did not give him
 an information of, and almost all, as accom-
 plices, while his whole care was to consider,
 which could turn most to his advantage, in the
 conviction, and to settle the evidence against
 them, so as it might be sure not to miscarry.

C H A P.

C H A P. IX.

An highway-man improperly taken, saves his life, by losing his reason. Judicial sagacity, and eloquence triumphant over common-sense, and matter of fact. This mystery explained.

WHILE he was in the midst of this business, he was surprized with the news of an highway-man, that moment brought in by a gentleman who had taken him, in the very attempt of robbing him on *Turnham-Green*. This threw the whole house into an uproar,——‘ *An highwa;man taken, and by the very party !* (exclaimed the justice in an agony of rage and vexation) *This is most unfortunate ; there is 40 l dead loss, beside the shame of it : how shall I support my consequence, if other people can serve the publick without my assistance ?*’

‘ I wonder who it can be (said the clerk) I suppose the man on the white mare, or the mask, from *Putney-Common* ! but whoever it is, something must be done ! *He* must be saved this time, to save *our* credit, and we may have him the next, ourselves ! Here they come : do you keep the gentleman in discourse, while I speak to the prisoner, and see how he can come down. I shall readily give you your cue.’

Just then entered the gentleman with his prisoner, whom they directly knew to be an old offender, who had long baffled their pursuit : a circumstance, that heightened the vexation of his being taken by another, and was

was not a little favourable to him at this time.

His worship received the gentleman most politely, and desired him to sit down a moment, till he should finish a letter he was writing to *the secretary of state*, and then he would attend to his business, ordering the prisoner to be removed into another room for the mean time.

He then sat himself down to write, with great deliberation, and had *just finished*, when his clerk came to deliver him a letter *from the lord mayor*, which he read over attentively, and saying it was very well. he then turned to the gentleman, and asking his pardon for making him wait so long, ordered the prisoner to be brought in.

The highway-man appeared now a quite different person from what he did, when he was in the room a few minutes before ; his looks, which were then clouded with the gloom of listless dejection and despair, being inflamed into the fiercest agitations of phrenzy.

The gentleman shewed his surprize at this change, as did his worship his uneasiness for his own safety, from the fury of so outrageous a madman. As soon as he was *secured*; the justice addressing himself, with the height of judicial solemnity, to the prosecutor, ‘ Pray Sir (said he) will you please
‘ to inform me what you have to alledge
‘ against this unhappy person ?’—‘ Sir (replied the gentleman) all I have to say, is,
‘ that he stopped me this afternoon, upon
‘ *Turnham-Green*, and presenting a pistol at
‘ me

‘me, bid me deliver my money, but being well armed, and having more about me than I chose to lose, instead of my purse, I drew a pistol too, and his missing fire, I grappled with, and took him on the spot, and from thence brought him directly here: that is all I have to say, Sir!’

‘And, pray, Sir, what did he say when you had taken him?——’ Not a word, Sir, nor has he spoke a syllable since; nor answered any one question he has been asked.’——

‘Aye, ’tis so! poor gentleman, it is so!——’

‘And pray, Sir, did he make much resistance when you took him?’——‘The utmost he was able; but being better mounted, and much stronger than him, I soon overpowered him, though not without great danger, for after I had him down, he drew this knife, and very narrowly missed plunging it into my body! see what a cut he made in my coat and waistcoat!’——‘Aye, poor man, madness is always desperate: I fear, Sir, you have been too hasty in this affair.’——‘How, Sir, too hasty, to take a man in the very action of highway robbery? I do not understand you, Sir!’

‘Sir, I mean that this person is no robber, but an unhappy gentleman of family and fortune, who has been for some time out of his mind: I have been applied to by his relations, more than once, to try to have him apprehended, that he might be confined; and now he is secured, they will take proper care of him, that he shall not frighten any body for the future; for I am satisfied, Sir, that was all he meant; and that he would not have
‘taken

'taken your money, had you offered it to him:
 'I suppose you searched him when you had
 'overpowered him, poor man, as you justly
 'termed it! Pray, Sir, did you find any
 'thing upon him, to make you think he was
 'an highwayman? Any watches! jewels!
 'or different purses of money? or more money
 'than you might think it probable a person of
 'his appearance might commonly carry about
 'him?'

'No really, Sir, I did not find any thing
 'like what you mention! this purse, which
 'seems to have about 30 or 40 guineas in
 'it, (for I have not reckoned them) was the
 'only thing in all his pockets, except the
 'knife which he drew on me; his pistols were
 'openly in his saddle, as gentlemen commonly
 'wear them.'

'Very well, and does not his present beha-
 'viour and whole conduct in this affair con-
 'vince you, that the unhappy man could have
 'no felonious intent, in his mad attack upon
 'you: for men, mad as he is, have no in-
 'tention at all; and, without a felonious in-
 'tent, there can be no robbery: but, I presume,
 'you may understand something of the law your-
 'self, Sir?'

'No, indeed, Sir, I cannot say I know
 'any more law, than just not to wrong any
 'person, nor let them wrong me, if I can
 'help it, as far as common sense will direct me:
 'I thank God, I have spent my days quietly in
 'the country, and never had a dispute with
 'any man in my life.'

'Common sense, dear Sir! common sense is
 'a blind guide in matters of law! Law and
 'common

‘common sense are quite different things; but
 ‘as I was saying, Sir, where there is no felo-
 ‘nious intent, there can be no felony; now
 ‘robbery is punished on’y because it is felony, for
 ‘so the indictment must be laid; FELONICE,
 ‘Sir, FELONICE, or it will not do! The in-
 ‘dictment will be quashed without that word;
 ‘and who can charge a man with a felonious
 ‘intent, who is disordered in mind, and can
 ‘have no intention at all. ’Tis true the ap-
 ‘pearance was bad, and sufficiently terrifying,
 ‘to authorize your apprehending him; but as
 ‘you suffered neither loss, nor hurt, I cannot
 ‘suppose that a gentleman of your humane ap-
 ‘pearance wou’d desire to add to the misery of
 ‘his present unhappy condition, that of impri-
 ‘sonment till the next sessions, when he must
 ‘be acquitted of course, as that would cer-
 ‘tainly make his madness for ever incurable;
 ‘—Whatever expence you have been at in
 ‘bringing him here, I will take upon me to
 ‘reimburse you, out of the money in his purse,
 ‘beside what gratification you please to require,
 ‘for your own time and trouble! This, Sir, is
 ‘what I would recommend to you, as a Chri-
 ‘stian and a gentleman, as you appear to be: but
 ‘if you are of another opinion, you must only
 ‘swear to your information, and enter into a re-
 ‘cognizance of prosecution, while I sign his MIT-
 ‘TIMUS, and send word to his friends, who are
 ‘people of condition.

‘Indeed, Sir, you judge very rightly of
 ‘me; I would not aggravate the distress
 ‘of any human being! If you know the
 ‘the unhappy man, and that he is under so
 ‘severe an affliction, as the loss of reason,
 ‘I

' I have nothing farther to say, than that I
 ' am sorry for his misfortune, and would
 ' not for the world be the cause of heighten-
 ' ing it, as I had no motive for apprehend-
 ' ing him, but the duty which I and every
 ' member owe the publick. I thank hea-
 ' ven for my own escape from him, and do
 ' not desire to make any advantage of it.
 ' As to the people who assisted me in bring-
 ' ing him thither, they are still unpaid, and
 ' you know best how to deal with them, so I
 ' leave the whole affair to you, and am your
 ' humble servant.'

I have not interrupted this account, with any
 notice of the behaviour of the criminal, as it
 consisted only of the most outrageous imitation
 of madness, with imprecations and blasphemies
 too horrid for repetition.

As soon as the gentleman was gone, and
 the room cleared of all, but the justice, his
 clerk, and the *madman*, who was left bound
 to keep up the farce, his worship thus ad-
 dressed him, ' So, sir, you thought to reign
 ' for ever; but you see what your feats have
 ' come to! I suppose you are surprized at the
 ' pains I have taken to bring you through this
 ' affair!'—' Not at all, sir, (replied the crimi-
 ' nal) the bank note for 200 l which I had con-
 ' cealed in the sleeve of my coat, and gave
 ' your clerk'—' How, sir, said the justice in a
 ' rage) do you pretend to say it was upon any
 ' such account? But you judge of others by
 ' yourself. However, I shall not stand to
 ' argue the matter with you now; you have
 ' escaped for this time, and may be glad
 ' of it! but take care for the future! your
 ' luck

‘luck may not always be so good’——‘*Will your worship please to order your people to return me my horse and arms? and I hope you will give me my purse; for life without something to support it is no great obligation.*’——‘What sir, do you pretend to capitulate!’ ‘Your horse you shall have, not that you have any right to expect him, but because it would not be proper to keep him, after the representation that imposed upon the fool who took you; and here are half a score guineas to carry you to some place where you are not known, and to maintain you till you can get into some honest way of earning your bread. The rest is little enough to give the people instead of your horse, and to stop their mouths. You may stay here till the crowd is dispersed, when you may go where you please.’——As there was no remedy, the criminal was forced to submit; nor indeed did he seem much dissatisfied at the heaviness of his composition.

C H A P. X.

An instance of his worship's exemplary justice on a shop-lifter. The unfashionable compassion and generosity of a sailor. A dispute about superiority of skill between his worship and his clerk, opens new mysteries in the profession.

I T was now pretty late, and my master was just retiring to supper, pleased with having made so good a day, when he was stopped

stopped by more business. A woman who kept a chandler's shop, in the next street, had dragged before him one of her poor neighbours, whom she had caught in the very fact of stealing a pound of cheese off her counter, as she was reaching her a two-penny loaf from the shelf: a crime that was heightened by ingratitude too, as she was giving her the loaf on trust; the thief having owned to her, that she had not a farthing in the world to pay for it, nor a morsel to give her three small children, who had been fasting the whole day.

Enraged at the heinousness of the crime, and at being kept from supper, while the chickens and asparagus were cooling on the table, his worship, knitting his brows, and putting on all the magistrate, asked the trembling wretch, with a voice that pierced her soul,—‘What she had to say for herself, and ‘whether she was guilty of the crime laid to ‘her charge, or not.’——

The poor creature, almost dead with wretchedness, want, and fear, threw herself at his feet, and pouring out a flood of tears, that for some moments choaked her utterance, ‘O mercy! mercy! (said she) ‘for the love of the sweet *Jesus*, have ‘mercy on a poor wretch, whom want ‘alone compelled to this first offence, to ‘save the lives of three poor infants, who ‘are this moment perishing with hunger. ‘Oh, send, and prove the truth of what I ‘say; send and learn their misery, and it ‘will move you to relieve them, and then ‘I care not what becomes of me.’——

‘*Very*

‘*Very fine truly ! if we admit such excuses
 ‘ for shop-lifting, there will be enough ready
 ‘ to plead them. Here, make her mittimus ;
 ‘ she confesses the fact ; as for her brats, bas-
 ‘ tards too, I suppose, let them be sent to the
 ‘ work-house——*’ Oh the poor creatures !
 ‘ they are not bastards ; and they have no
 ‘ parish to be sent to. My husband is a
 ‘ sailor, who was pressed on board a man of
 ‘ war six years ago, and has been in the
 ‘ *West-Indies* ever since, till this summer,
 ‘ when the ship was ordered home to be
 ‘ laid up. Poor soul ! he thought he should
 ‘ be paid off, and so wrote me word to *Cork*,
 ‘ to come to him, for he meant to go and set-
 ‘ tle in *Scotland*, his own country ; but the
 ‘ moment he came to *Portsmouth*, he was
 ‘ turned over into another ship, without get-
 ‘ ting a shilling of his six years wages or
 ‘ prize-money, and sent away directly to *Ame-
 ‘ rica* ; so that, after spending every penny I
 ‘ had in the world, to come to him from *Ire-
 ‘ land*, as he desired, I am left here with my
 ‘ poor children to starve in a strange place,
 ‘ where no-body has any compassion for me,
 ‘ though my husband wrote me word, that he
 ‘ had above 300 l. due to him for wages and
 ‘ prize-money ; here is his letter ! I never go
 ‘ without it ! it is all the comfort I have in my
 ‘ distress.’

‘*Aye, I thought so ! I thought you were
 ‘ one of those Irish thieves that came to rob us
 ‘ and cut our throats ! but I shall take care of,
 ‘ you ! I shall make you wish you had con-
 ‘ tinued eating potatoes at home. I wish I
 ‘ could provide as well for every one of your*

‘try! we shall never be well, till we have
 ‘hang’d you all.’——‘Oh good your wor-
 ‘ship! I am no thief; I never stole any thing
 ‘before. And this woman, who has brought
 ‘me before you, knows the truth of every
 ‘thing I have told your worship; and that I
 ‘have always paid her honestly while I had a
 ‘penny in the world; for I have dealt with her
 ‘ever since I came to *London*; but hunger,
 ‘and the cries of three starving children, forced
 ‘me to this! Oh my children, my chil-
 ‘dren!’——‘Peace, woman! all you can say
 ‘signifies nothing; you were taken in the fact,
 ‘and to Newgate you shall go directly. And as
 ‘for your brats, it is better for them to die of
 ‘hunger now, than to be hanged like their mo-
 ‘ther.’——

By this time the *mittimus* was ready, which
 he signed without the least hesitation or pity,
 and then hurried away to his supper, having al-
 most fretted his bowels out, to think it was
 spoiled by waiting so long.

But though the Justice’s compassion could
 not be moved by such a *poor* wretch, his
 clerk was not so inexorable, but yielded to
 the persuasion of an honest *tar*, who see-
 ing a croud at the door, had given six-pence
 to go in, and see the *fun*; and for two
 guineas, which barely paid the fees, ventured
 to make up the affair, and let her go about her
 business, though he did not know what might
 be the consequence, if it should ever come to his
 worship’s knowledge.——Jack took no notice
 of what he said, but taking the poor creature,
 who was just sinking under the agitations
 of fear, joy, and gratitude, by the hand,
 ‘Chear

‘Chear away, sister (said he) chear away;
‘we’ll bring up all this lee-way, next trip.
‘Damn my eyes and limbs, if I’ll see a
‘brother seaman’s family at short allow-
‘ance, while I have a shilling! come heave
‘a-head; I’ll rig and victual you and your
‘children, against your husband comes, to
‘man you for a voyage home. I’ll swing my
‘hammock in the next birth, and you shall
‘cook the kettle, while I stay a-shore.’—
Saying which words, he led her off in tri-
umph.—This the clerk told his worship,
when he came in to supper, giving him
one of the guineas, as his share of the compo-
sition.

I now thought the business of the day over,
and was preparing to take a view of my new
master’s heart, while he and his clerk were
enjoying their success over an hearty bot-
tle. But I was prevented, by an accident,
which disturbed for a while, and had like to
have entirely broken off this harmony be-
tween them, a dispute, like those between
all conquerors, arising about the division of
the spoil, and the merit in the acquisition of
it.

‘This will do! (said his worship) clap-
‘ping his hands a kimbo, after a full glass)
‘this will do! what between the bawd in
‘the morning, and the highwayman in
‘the afternoon, we have made a noble day of
‘it! But what have you ordered about that
‘fellow? I hope you have taken care that
‘we may have him ourselves next.’ ‘Never
‘fear (replied the clerk) I have done for
‘him. I have sent people to lay all the
I 2 ‘roads

‘roads he can go, from the inn where he ordered his horse; and *plausible Tom* is fixed there, to scrape an acquaintance with him, so that he cannot escape.

‘*Aye, let Tom alone to manage him; many a cunning fellow’s heart has that Tom crept into, till he has wheedled him to Tyburn! Not a lawyer of them all has a smother tongue. But did not I improve the hint of the madness well? how quietly the gudgeon swallowed it! If I were to set about it, I believe in my soul, I could have persuaded him out of his own senses, and made him think himself mad, as well as the highwayman! ha! ha! ha! Though you were not quite clear enough in your note; you should have told me all the particulars; I was often at a loss; but upon the whole, I think I did pretty well; pretty well, I think!*’

‘Why aye, you did so manage it pretty well, when I had given you the *cue*, and so might any one have done. But how would you have contrived to bring him off, if I had not made that hit!—*How!—why easily enough!—I would have—* But what have you done with the bank-note? let me see that!——’ The note! it is safe enough. But you do not tell me how you would have managed to have earned it; I think you should do that before you ask for it!——’ *How I would have earned it! why pray, good sir, do you know whom you talk to in this manner?*——’ Whom I talk to!—I talk to the worshipful justice—— whose betters I have talked to before now; and who would not have asked

asked me that question some years ago,
 when he applied to me, to instruct him in
 the business of his office!——*Insolence!*
instruct me! I'll make you know sir, that I
understand my business, without your instruc-
tion! I'll take another clerk to-morrow.——
 With all my heart, good master justice!
 with all my heart; and see who will be the
 loser by that. If you do not know it yet,
 you will soon see then, whether the business
 comes to the justice or his clerk; for I give
 you notice, that I shall take all *the people*
 with me; you shall have the credit of mak-
 ing up a new set for yourself, I assure you.
 ——*Very fine! very fine treatment this!*
 ——*Why do you deserve it then, sir,*
if you do not like it. I say very fine treat-
ment too! that you should take upon you
to undervalue my skill, and assume the cre-
dit of it to yourself; you, whom I first
taught, and still support in your office, in
despight of all your blunders!——As for
 the bank-note, here it is, and here it shall
 be, till we have settled the accompt of the
 last sessions, when you were so clever upon
 me, sending me, on a fool's errand, out of
 the way, while you took up the reward.
 Perhaps you thought I did not see through
 your design, or that I was afraid to speak of
 it, but you were quite mistaken; I only
 waited till the remedy should come into my
 own hands, and now it has, be assured I
 shall make use of it, whatever you may
 think, sir! and farther let me tell you, that
 if you say much more, I will think of part-
 ing in earnest, if you do not think proper

‘ to come to a new agreement; for I see
 ‘ no reason why you should carry off two
 ‘ thirds of the profit, only because you are
 ‘ *justice* indeed, though I do all the business!
 ‘ nefs!’

C H A P. XI.

The breach happily made up by the arrival of company. The evening concluded in character. His worship goes next morning to hear a charity sermon, and from thence to eat a charity feast, where CHRYSA L enters into a new service. Some account of the nature of a charity feast.

MA T T E R S were now at such an height, that I every minute expected they would have proceeded from words to blows, when a pull at the bell brought them both to themselves in an instant.

‘ Hah! that is true! this is quarter night
 ‘ (said the justice) and here the ladies are
 ‘ come! give me your hand: why should
 ‘ we fall out about our skill, while the business
 ‘ goes on well: here’s my service
 ‘ to you; and let there be no more of
 ‘ it’——

‘ With all my heart (replied the clerk) but
 ‘ why will you urge me on thus, when you
 ‘ know that I cannot bear to have my skill
 ‘ called in question?’——

By this time the ladies entered, whom I directly saw to be the *commode* matrons, and
 com-

compliant fair, of his district, who came duly to compound with him, for the breach of those laws he was appointed to support.

The very mention of this scene, sufficiently explains the nature of it, and makes a more particular description unnecessary. All parties behaved properly on the occasion. *They* paid their subsidies, for which he returned them very wholesome advice, to behave with diligence and discretion in their professions; and especially those who lived in his neighbourhood, he cautioned to avoid all riots, and causes of offence, which might bring his connivance and protection into suspicion; then relaxing from the severity of his morals, he gave up the rest of the night, and a good part of the next morning, to mirth and good-fellowship, in the company of a few of his particular favourites, and best customers of this motly set, having dismissed the rest to the pursuit of their occupations.

The business of the day, and pleasures of the night, had so far exhausted his spirits, that nature required a long pause: accordingly, no business coming in to disturb him (for such was his vigilance in his office, and care for the public, that every thing gave way to that) he made a late morning, not waking till he was called to attend a sermon and dinner, which were to be that day for the benefit of a charity, to which he was a constant benefactor; as indeed his public spirit made him, to all that were already established, and prompted him to strike out many new; in which, as the author of them, he

hoped to have the management, while novelty should make it the fashion to support them.

But in this he was always disappointed. For though, in the multitude of his schemes, he sometimes stumbled upon a good one, yet his head was so confused, and his notions so wild and immethodical, that before he could digest his plans into any regularity, some one else took up the hint, and ran away with the credit of the design.

At church he *edified* greatly, by a comfortable *nap*, during the sermon, which finished his refreshment, and sent him with a clear head, and keen stomach, to the feast, where every person seemed to vie, in demonstrating his attachment to the cause of their meeting, by the quantity he eat and drank.

I here changed my service once more, being given by his worship in his subscription, and so came into the possession of a community in general, which gave me an opportunity of seeing the human heart in a more complicated view, than perhaps any other scene of its actions could afford; as there was hardly a profession, degree, or rank of life, which had not a representative in this meeting, nor a motive of action, however apparently contrary to its design, or contradictory to each other, which did not contribute its influence to the bringing them together.

While I lay in the hands of the treasurer of the charity, unassigned to any particular use, or person, I enjoyed a state of liberty,
some-

something like that of living in a commonwealth, having it in my power to enter into the hearts of all the governors (who were now my owners) as I liked, and to make any observations, without restraint to any particular person, time, or place.

Charity is the most amiable, and most exalted of the human virtues, and that which rises to the nearest imitation of the divine. Nor can any thing be a stronger proof of the beneficence of the author of the human nature, than his placing this virtue, which is the perfection of it, within the reach of every individual.

For charity is a disposition to think well of, and to do well to, every other human being, without partiality, prejudice or respect, to any other motive, than this universal duty; giving of alms being no more than one, and that perhaps the very meanest, effect of it.

But this extensiveness of the nature of charity is the reason of its being generally misconceived, and most erroneously confined to this effect, by minds unable to comprehend its greater excellence; and from this mistake, have proceeded many of the extraordinary instances of this effect of charity, which distinguishes the present age.

This is a most dangerous error; it is too like thinking to bribe heaven with the wages of hell; and yet profanely absurd as such a notion is, daily observation shews the extensive prevalence of it.

As charity is such a refined and exalted virtue, and purely spiritual, it must appear strange to you, how it should enter into the head of man, to make so gross, low, and sensual a passion as eating, the foundation of it ! Indeed so unnatural is the thought to pure speculation, unacquainted with the perversions of life, that a charity-feast, in the literal meaning of the phrase, must be taken for a meeting of the poor to eat the provisions supplied for them by the rich, instead of the rich meeting to gorge their own appetites.

But a little observation of the present byas of the world, will solve this difficulty. Of all the *natural* appetites and passions, which possess that part of mankind, whose age has enabled them to amass money enough to give away, eating is the most universal. I say natural passions, for fraud, avarice, or ambition, or even lust, at that time of life, are not the passions of nature.

To gratify this, therefore, was the most probable scheme for drawing *them* together : and when that is sufficiently done, the full heart opens easily, and shares its abundance with the empty.

C H A P. XII.

A representation of the company : The history of one of the principal members. The modern method of bribing heaven with the wages of hell.

* **T**HEY had feasted, nor did their minds yet require such another banquet, when I became a member of their society ; you must not expect a particular account or description of such a scene. A few general hints must satisfy your curiosity, as I have told you on other occasions.

Let your imagination represent to you, a number of people, whose highest pleasure is eating, seated at a large table, covered with all the delicacies, all the rarities of the season, in a plenty that promised satiety to their keenest appetites.—But I must stop ! I see the very thought has an effect upon you, that favours too strongly of sensuality, and might, if not checked, put a stop to our conversation, by some human hankerings. Let us therefore pass over such a scene, and turn our observation to the company, as they sat, after the fragments of the feast were removed. And here it will be proper to have recourse to the expedient we made use of before, and holding up the mirror to imagination, view the whole scene as if actually present.

Observe

• Homer.

Observe then, that enormous bulk of flesh, that sits at the head of the table, with his waistcoat all unbuttoned, and gasping for breath; the distension of his stomach having left his lungs scarce room to perform the animal functions, and fat almost choaked the passages of vital air.

He is one of the principal supporters of this, and every other public charity, founded on the modern method of a feast; the natural avarice of his heart outwitting itself in this instance; for as he is sure of satiating his appetites with more and better victuals and wine, at these meetings, than he could have at home, for much more than the price of the ticket, the advantage in that bargain, always tempts him to go; and then the happiness of his heart, in the fulness of his stomach, opens his purse, and he subscribes with a liberality that arises almost to profusion.

But look into his heart, and read the rest of his life: the very money which he bestows with such an appearance of virtue, on this best of uses (for no error in motive, or manner, must take off the merit of an action, that does good) this very money (I say) has perhaps been acquired, by vices the most opposite to the virtues it is applied to.

The greatest frugality, application, and skill in the mysterious business of a scrivener have raised this person, from the most abject poverty, to affluence, above the moderation of a rational wish. But so powerful is the force of habit, that though the cause has
been

been long since removed, the effect still remains, and he persists to save and heap up money, by all the mean and iniquitous ways, which want first suggested to him. One instance, and that not singular, in him, will give you a sufficient insight into his character.

A gentleman, whom indiscretion and indolence of temper, had involved in some pecuniary distresses, had the greater misfortune some years ago, to be recommended to this person, to borrow such a sum of money as should extricate him from his immediate difficulties, on a mortgage of his estate.

As his security was good, his business was soon done ; but the convenience of his estate, to another which this person had lately purchased in his neighbourhood, and an acquaintance with the unwary easiness of his disposition, made him cast a wishful eye upon it, and form schemes for getting it absolutely into his possession.

At first he strove to tempt his indiscretion, by the offer of more money to supply his pleasures, but finding that would not take, and that the sense of his former extravagances dwelt so strongly on him, as to give his mind a kind of turn to industry, did he know how to apply it, his ready genius struck out a method, that he imagined could not fail of success.

He therefore cultivated an intimacy with the gentleman, in which, upon all occasions, he affected to boast of his own success in life, and to attribute it to his having always a command

mand of money, to take the advantage of any bargain that might offer.

As this turn of conversation seemed to flow only from the fulness of his heart, and to be free from all design, it had the effect he proposed, and raised a desire in his friend to follow a method which had been so successful with him. He therefore, one day, communicated to him a resolution, which he had formed, of selling his estate, and applying the money to business; and desired his friend's assistance to execute his design. After an appearance of surprize, the scrivener testified his pleasure and approbation of his prudence, by the readiness with which he undertook to serve him.

The ease with which the first part of his scheme had succeeded, made him form further hopes, and think of getting the estate he desired, even at a cheaper rate than purchasing it.

After some time spent, as he said, in fruitless enquiries, for a purchaser, he most artfully drew his friend, to desire that he would buy it himself: at first he seemed to hesitate, but then, as it were yielding to the impulse of his friendship, he concluded a bargain for it, on terms evidently advantageous to the seller.

All things being agreed upon, the parties met to conclude the affair, when the writings being read over, and the money lying on the table, while the scrivener told it, the gentleman executed the deeds of conveyance, and receipt, before proper witnesses, who withdrew as soon as they had signed them.

In

In the mean time, the scrivener continued to tell the money, till a servant entered hastily with a letter, as from a lord, who was one of his best clients, and desired to see him that moment. The difficulty this threw him into was soon solved, by his friend's compliance to defer his business for a few hours, as the lord's urgency would not admit the least delay. Accordingly, he put up both the deeds and money, in all the apparent confusion of hurry, and went away to his lordship.

Next morning the gentleman called to receive the price of his estate, but his friend was not at home, nor to be spoken with in the afternoon, for his turn was now served, and he neither desired, nor perhaps thought it safe, to keep up any farther acquaintance with him.

As such things might happen to a man in business, the gentleman took no notice of them, but quietly swallowed the same excuses for some days successively. At length his patience began to be exhausted, and his fears alarmed at a behaviour so strange, and contrary to that height of intimacy that had been between them, even were there no business in the case.——In this perplexity he went one morning, resolved not to quit the house till he should see him; and when a message to that purpose was, after long attendance, complied with, upon a warm expostulation, he received for answer, from his *friend*, that ‘ he had
‘ been of late too much engaged in affairs of
‘ consequence, to attend compliments, and
‘ knew

‘knew not any business he could have with him.’

‘Not know my business, sir, (replied the gentleman in astonishment) I come, sir, for my money, and shall hereafter never trouble you more with business, or compliment.’—
‘Your money, sir! I do not understand you: pray, sir, what money do you mean?’——
 ‘What money? the purchase money of my estate, sir; which you were to have paid me above a week ago, when I signed the deeds of sale!’——*‘Poor gentleman; it is so! as I was informed, and always feared. He has lost his reason; and I should not seem much better, to trust myself longer with a man in his condition.’*—‘Take care, sir; this is too tender a point to be trifled with: you almost make me mad!’——*‘Aye; there it is: he is mad, poor man; and is even sensible of it himself!’*——
 ‘Death, sir; do not dare to dally with me a moment longer! answer me directly! pay me my money; and do not really provoke me to a madness, that may be fatal to us both.’——*‘Sir, your madness, or reason, is nothing to me: however, I will answer you directly, that I owe you no money, and none will I pay you. As for the purchase money of your estate, your parting with which I see has turned your brain, when you come to yourself, you will recollect, that I paid it to you, when you executed the deeds of sale; or if you do not remember it, your own receipt, properly witnessed, will prove it. for me, and I desire no more: and therefore, sir, let me have no further trouble with you, if*

‘ if you do not chuse to take up your lodgings in
‘ MOORFIELDS.’

‘ This is too much ; just heaven ! this is
‘ too much ; too much for human patience
‘ to endure ! or wait the law’s delay for re-
‘ medy ! I will avenge myself, assert the
‘ cause of justice ; and rid the groaning world
‘ of such a monster !’ (exclaimed the unhappy gentleman) now really irritated into the extremity of that phrenzy, which the other only wanted to impose upon him, and drawing his sword, before the wretch could call for help, or take any method of defence, he plunged it through his body.

His shrieks soon alarmed his servants, who rushing in, found him weltering in his blood, and the madman smiling, in the absence of frantick extacy over him, and incapable of attention to any other circumstance, though some of them dragged him before a magistrate, while the rest were busied in procuring relief for their master.

The madman was committed to prison, to wait the event of the wound he had given, which heaven, to let the measure of the scrivener’s iniquity be full, had directed to a part where it was not mortal.

In a word, he recovered, though not to a sense of justice or humanity, but persisting in his iniquity, which now was sharpened by a spirit of revenge, for what he had endured, the first effort of his health, was to have the unhappy sufferer confined in *Bedlam*, where he still languishes under all the horrors that attend a total loss of reason, without relief, or
even

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even compassion from his base undoer ; who, this very morning, as he was stepping into his chariot, to come to this *charity-feast*, spurned from him with his foot, and refused the smallest alms to the wretched wife of the ruined madman, who begs in the common streets, and was driven by misery and despair, to throw herself even at his feet, to implore relief.

I see your abhorrence rise at such a monster, but how will wonder even heighten it, when I tell you, that this oppressor has neither child, nor kinsman, to inherit his wealth ; for he was himself a foundling, and reared at the publick expence, without the knowledge or tenderness of a parent, to soften his rugged soul, nor would the selfishness of his heart ever permit him to marry, for fear of the expence of a family ; but he is this moment meditating on some ostentatious scheme of charity, to the foundation of which, he designs to dedicate the wealth which he has amassed by such villainies.

C H A P.

C H A P. XIII.

*Continued. The history of a general almoner.
His method of making charity begin at home.
He converts a noted bawd, but disappoints
his designs by too great confidence in his own
skill. The character of a clergyman.*

MOVE your eye to the left, and view that demure-looking picture of devotion, who sits there in silence, lifting up his eyes to heaven, and sighing in spirit, at the festivity and sensual conversation round him.

Who, that can see no deeper than outward appearances, would not think that man sincere in his professions of religion and virtue? whereas, in truth he is the most abandoned contemner of both; and deepens the dye of his blackest crimes by the most hardened hypocrisy, secretly living on the practice of those very vices, of which he professes the greatest abhorrence.

With all that consequence, which he assumes, in the direction of this charity, on the merit of the largeness of his subscription to it, in reality he is but the dispenser of other peoples benefactions, into whose good opinion he so insinuates himself, by his pretended piety, that they intrust their charity to his disposal, who always pays himself for his trouble, by subducting largely, from the sums confided to him. For as real charity vaunteth not itself, they never divulge the secret, compleatly

completely imposed on, by his address, that never lets one half of his contributors know, of the other; by which management, as the sums he gives, are always made public, for example and imitation, each thinks that *he* adds most liberally to his own donation.—— But this is not the only method by which he turns his piety to advantage. The access which the reputation of it gains him, into almost every family, opens him an opportunity of carrying on the deepest intrigues, and becoming a pander, for vices both natural and unnatural, which the interest of the parties concerned makes them still keep secret.——As for the former, the mystery of that trade has been in part explained already; and the latter is too horrible for explanation. I shall therefore pass over those scenes, and conclude my account of this extraordinary personage, with one instance of his address, in finding out and managing the weak side of superstition and vice.

In the course of his love-negotiations, he had made an acquaintance with a woman who kept a publick *lagnie*, or house of prostitution, which acquaintance mutual interest cemented into an intimacy. In this most infamous trade had this woman amassed considerable wealth, the disposal of which (after her death) took up much of her thoughts, in those moments, when the consequences of her debauched life forced her to think of dying.

As the secrets of their trade had removed every reserve from between them, she often
used

used to consult him on this head ; when he always comforted her with dissertations upon religion and virtue, *stripping them of the vain incumbrances of priestcraft, and bringing them back to their genuine principles of benevolence and charity.*

Frequent inculcation of this doctrine had the effect he designed ; the matron was pleased with the thought of having all the benefit of religion, without the trouble of the practice, and immediately began to exercise her devotion in donations to publick charities, which as it was not quite so much in character for her to offer in person, while she continued her profession, and she saw no necessity, nor felt inclination to quit that, she always confided to the distribution of her spiritual guide.

Nor did his success stop here ; he improved his influence on her superstition, so far, that he prevailed on her to compound with heaven for the vices of her life, by bequeathing the earnings of them to its use, after her death.

For this purpose he himself drew her will, which pious application of her fortune set her conscience at ease ; and she continued her usual business to the hour of her death, which happened three years after, with such care and industry, that some instance of negligence, in one of her servant's administering to the pleasure of her guests, gave her such uneasiness, in her last moments, that with her dying breath she lamented the ruin her house must come to, after
she

she should quit the care of it, for the joys of heaven.

You must not think, that his design extended no farther than to prevail on her to make such a will ; he had drawn it himself, as I have told you, and took care to word it in such a manner, as he thought should give him, under the appearance of her executor and trustee, as she designed him, a real property in her wealth ; as it was immediately to come into his hands, on her death, and there was no time appointed for the fulfilling her pious intentions.

But here his sagacity disappointed itself; for neglecting to take proper advice, or afraid of making any person privy to his designs, he had committed such *material* errors in the *form* of the will, as gave room to learned counsel to set it aside, in favour of the heir at law, her nephew, who, from cleaning shoes under a gateway, was enriched with at least a third part of his aunt's fortune, which remained to him, after the costs of the suit that had been carried on for him, *in formâ pauperis*, while her executor had the vexation of disappointment aggravated by a decree *to pay all the costs*.—This was a severe stroke : but it did not break his spirit, though it obliged him to return to his former occupation of an *almoner*, which you see he pursues with that attention, which always ensures success.

I see you sink under the pain of finding the best actions debased, by springing from such motives : but be careful to avoid an error, fatally too prevalent, of concluding from the abuse, against,

against the use of any thing that may, in its end, be conducive to good.

These instances I have given ; and I could add many more ; not to depreciate the custom of giving to publick charities, which is the noblest use of wealth ; but to caution you against the dangerous error of thinking, that such giving alone, without reformation of life, and the active practice of the other virtues, can be acceptable in the sight of him to whom it is offered, or efficacious to procure his favour ; and to shew the absurd impiety of perishing in vice, with a vain hope of bribing heaven with the wages of hell.

But to relieve your pain, behold that venerable person who sits opposite to him ; the serenity of whose looks shews the happiness of his mind. Read his heart, and you will not find one discontent, or sorrow there, but what humanity imprints for the distresses of his fellow-creatures, which his beneficence, his real charity, is for ever finding methods to relieve, not only by pecuniary benefactions, though to these is devoted the far greater part of his ample fortune, but also by his advice, instruction, and good offices, the judicious application and sincerity of which, makes them very rarely fail of success.—He is a real supporter of charity in its most extensive sense ! his example giving a sanction, a seal of virtue, to every thing he appears in, which puts wicked wit out of countenance, and stops the tongue of calumny ; and is (even were it alone) sufficient to counterbalance all the instances which could be brought against it.

His

His long life, which has been extended by heaven, as a blessing to mankind, has been a constant illustration of the religion he teaches; not one instance of his actions ever contradicting his profession, as near as human weakness can act up to divine perfection.

Such is this clergyman! such should all clergymen be, to preserve the purity, the dignity of a function, whose rules are drawn from perfection, and calculated to prepare the human for a participation of the divine nature, to accomplish which greatest end, all profession, not enforced by practice, must be ineffectual.

To mention any one instance of his good works, would be doing injustice to the rest, and contradicting the desire of his heart, which, next to doing good, is to conceal what he does, his actions being so far from ostentation, that to heaven only, and the parties themselves, are they revealed, nor even to these is the hand that reaches them the blessing always known.

C H A P. XIV.

The representation concluded with an eminent man-midwife. His motives for taking up that profession, with some unfortunate anecdotes of his practice.

I Shall now present you with a character, the folly of which is a shade to its virtues, and shews them through a medium of ridicule and contempt, more humbling to human vanity, than the most atrocious vice.

Observe that skeleton, that figure of famine, who even after a feast, looks as if he had fasted for a month, and was just ready to perish for want. That is another of the principal promoters, and indeed supporters of publick charity, from the best of motives: his benefactions always flowing from the benevolence of his heart, though too often qualified in the manner, by circumstances that throw both the gift and giver into ridicule.

For such is the vehemence of his temper, that not satisfied with providing for the wants of the poor, he will see that the supplies which he bestows, are applied in the manner he directs, which introduces him too familiarly, into the domestick distresses of the unhappy, many of whom would rather perish for want, than make the circumstances of their wants known: nor is his fortune only devoted to those uses; his

very personal service is always ready, particularly in some cases, where, unfortunately, a motive of a very different nature from his real one, is too liable to be mistaken for it, by the malignant temper of the times.

There is no situation of human distress, that calls so strongly for compassion and relief, as child-birth. How severe then must the case of those unhappy creatures be, who are left to struggle through such pangs, unassisted, unprovided with any of the comforts, so necessary to support nature in such a conflict!

A sense of this struck his humane heart! He felt the distress, and liberally supplied the relief. Well had he stopped here! But fearing that such relief should be misapplied, or insufficient, he would attend himself, to see that nothing was wanted; and at length, to make his assistance compleat, learned the *obstetrick* art, and now necessarily has more business in it, as he pays for being employed, by the benefactions he bestows, than any one member of the profession.

Laudable as this care, and the motive of it, are, it would have been much better, had not the sanguineness of his temper hurried him so far! Had he been content to supply their wants, and let others, whose profession it more immediately is, administer relief. For now, what a field does it open for ill-natured ridicule, to see a man of his consequence, descend to offices, in the ordinary acceptation of the world, so far beneath him? How easy is it to say! how easy to be believed, that idle curiosity,
or

or some grosser motive, prompts to such uncommon assiduity?

Nor is the evil of this indiscretion confined to him alone; it reflects a kind of ridicule upon the very virtue it would serve; and makes less sanguine minds refrain from the good, for fear they should also share in the reproach.--for it is not sufficient for a man to have the testimony of his own conscience for the rectitude of his instructions; there is also a debt of appearance due to the publick, to avoid offence, and inculcate virtue by example.

One instance will illustrate this, and shew the inconveniencies of his inconsiderate zeal.

A poor woman applied to him for relief, some time before the moment. According to his custom, he supplied her necessities, and took a direction where to call and see her. The woman, either mistaken herself, or tempted by distress to deceive him, told him a wrong time, which made him come too soon; and as he always made her some charitable present whenever he came, she still found some complaints to induce him to repeat his visits.

At length, the frequency of his coming took the notice of the alley in which she lived, who could not conceive any honest business that a gentleman of his fine appearance could have with such a poor woman, in so obscure a place; and as such remarks are always improved, some *friend* hinted to the woman's husband, a labouring man, who was out at his work all day, and therefore could not be witness of his disgrace, that his wife had *many*

improper visitors come to her, and must certainly have taken to bad courses, to encourage such doings.

The cuckold in imagination, went directly home, in the greatest rage, at his dishonour, but the name of the visitor, and an assurance that there came no other, soon pacified him, especially as a ready thought struck him, that he might turn the good man's humanity to an advantage, of a nature very different from what he designed; for the fellow was well supplied with what is called *mother-wit*, which want had sharpened, and freed from every restraint of honesty. He therefore suddenly told his wife, that it might be so as she said, but he would have a better proof than her word for it, and she must let him see her visitor the next time he came, and as she valued her life, assent to every thing which he, her husband, should do or say.

The readiness of her consent encouraged him to open his design to her, which her nuptial obedience, and hopes of gain, made her not only give into, but she also improved the scheme to a certainty of success.

The husband accordingly having prepared some of his associates, placed them properly, the next time the gentleman went to visit his wife, who immediately, upon his coming into the room, began to *cry out*, and implore his assistance.

Though the business came a little inconveniently upon him, as he was full dressed, he would not desert her in her distress, but directly set about giving her the necessary assistance,

in the hurry of which, some unlucky stoop burst the string that tied his breeches behind, and down they fell about his heels.

Though this disaster disconcerted him a good deal, the cries of his patient would not give him time to adjust himself, but he was proceeding in his business, with the most anxious assiduity, when in rushed the husband, with his gang, and rewarded his care with a stroke, that felled him, fettered as he was in his breeches, to the ground.

The scene was now changed! the woman, no longer in labour, cried only for revenge, *on the base man who had attempted her virtue*, as the witnesses present attested, they had heard her before, and now caught him in the very fact; which the posture he was in, and above all, the circumstances of his breeches, too strongly confirmed, to the croud whom the noise had drawn together.

Terrified almost to death, at the threats of the enraged husband, who could hardly be held from taking personal vengeance that very moment, and sensible of the consequence, should public fame catch hold of such a tale, the poor *criminal* threw himself on his knees, and, convinced that all vindication of his innocence would be in vain, besought only a composition for his offence.

This was just what the parties wanted; but still to increase his terrors, and enhance the price of his escape, such difficulties were raised, as made him glad to yield to any terms they could impose; and accordingly, he not only purged himself of having done any ac-

tual dishonour to her husband, for the intention they would not admit him to controvert, but also made satisfaction to his resentment for the attempt, with 100 *l.* for which, as he had not such a sum immediately about him, he gave a draught on his banker, and waited in *dureſſe*, till the arrival of it released him.

This misfortune made him more cautious for some time; but he begins to forget it now, and goes on *with his buſineſs* as before. One thing indeed he takes ſufficient care about, and that is, that the waſte of his breeches is properly ſecured: for ſo ſtrong is the impreſſion, which that accident made upon him, that he never walks a dozen ſteps without pulling them up.

You ſee moſt of them begin to nod, I ſhall therefore draw the curtain here, and leave them to their nap, with this obſervation, that a few ſuch examples, as the laſt but one, and many of the kind there are, particularly eminent in this exalted virtue of charity, in both the ſexes, are ſufficient to take off the prejudice, which the others muſt excite, and to preſerve the proper reſpect to the principles they propoſe to imitation.

C H A P. XV.

Some account of the officers of the charity. Their care of themselves. They fall out about the division of the spoil. A terrible uproar is appeased by a demand of general concern. The concise manner of passing public accounts. CHRYSAL changes his service.

WHEN I had taken a sufficient view of the governors, I had leisure to turn my observations to the servants of the society, whose behaviour raised an indignation too strong to be expressed by words.

If the governors feasted, they paid for their feasting; but the servants feasted no less, and were paid for it! Nor was this enormity confined to this day: their whole time was one continued scene of it, and much the greater part of the contributions of the public was prostituted to this abominable abuse: while the poor, for whose relief they were given, too often languished in want of the meanest necessities, the fund being insufficient for their wants, and the luxury and wages of their servants.

I was diverted from these reflections, by an uproar, in one of the private apartments of the house, where some of the superior servants, had got together over a bottle of wine, to settle their respective dividends of the subscriptions of the day. I call them servants, for that is the proper appellation of all who serve for hire. As I was yet undisposed of to any particular person, I had it in my power, as I have told you before, to range through the whole territories

territories of the society, to which I belonged, and therefore flew to see, what might be the cause of this riot in so improper a place, where I was witness to such a scene, as almost transcends belief.

At the upper end of the table sat *the treasurer* (for it would be a reproach to the poorest society, to have fewer officers than the state) with his accounts before him. After a bumper to the success of the charity, Mr. steward (said he) our subscriptions have been so good this year, that I think we may venture to enlarge our salaries, a little; for last year they were really scarce worth a gentleman's acceptance.'——

'That is true (replied the steward) and I believe we may enlarge the house-allowance too, for upon the present establishment, it is hardly enough for the days we meet here, and will not afford any thing to carry home, to entertain a friend with, as a gentleman would desire:—it is but swelling some of the *sick articles*, which at present are scarce above the consumption. When I was overseer of the parish, we managed things better. We then lived like gentlemen: nay, I remember when I was church-warden, that we spent an whole summer jaunting about the country, in pursuit of a gentleman, who had a child sworn to him; for fifty shillings, which he had been ordered to pay, till the bill of our expences came to 15 *l.* and yet no-body could say against it: so that it is our own fault, if we do not live well.'

'Right (joined the apothecary) nor was the appointment for medicines any way sufficient.

'Had

‘ Had half what the physicians prescribed,
‘ been given, there would have been no-
‘ thing to be got by the contract.’——‘ How,
‘ Mr. apothecary (returned the cook, with a
‘ sneer) nothing to be got! pray, was not all you
‘ got clear gain? I am sure, from the benefit re-
‘ ceived by the patients, there did not appear to
‘ have been any thing above brick-dust, or pow-
‘ der of rotten-post in any of the stuffs they
‘ took!’

‘ Pray S— S— Sir (stuttered the apotheca-
‘ ry in a rage) wh— wh— what’s that you
‘ say? who m— m— made you a judge of me-
‘ dicines?’——‘ Not you, I thank God, Sir
‘ (said the cook) as my health shews. But I
‘ have good reason for what I say, for though
‘ I put double the quantity of meat in my broth,
‘ I could not prevent the people’s dying, nor
‘ make the few, who recovered, able to go out,
‘ in twice the usual time.’——‘ S— S— Sir,
‘ ’tis all a d— d— damn’d lie. Their d—
‘ d— dying was occasioned by the p— p—
‘ poorness of the b— b— broth, and the bad-
‘ ness of their p— p— p— provisions, and
‘ not by the w— w— want of medicines; and
‘ I’ll p— p— prove it, Sir! and how you
‘ sup—p—p—ported your family on the m—
‘ m—meat that should have been d—d—
‘ dress’d for the sick!’——‘ You’ll prove it, Sir!
‘ Take care that you,—Gentlemen take notice
‘ of what he says! This is striking at my cha-
‘ racter; and must affect my bread.’

‘ That is true, Mr. cook (said the secretary,
‘ who had been an attorney’s clerk) and what-
‘ ever strikes at a man’s character, so as to af-
‘ fect his bread, is actionable.’——‘ B—b— but
‘ Sir,

‘ Sir, he attacked my cha—cha—cha—rafter
 ‘ first, and I’ll b—b—b—bring my action
 ‘ too.’——‘ So you may, Sir (replied the law-
 ‘ yer) the action will lie on both sides.’——

The dispute had hitherto been kept up,
 with such heat, that the company could not
 interpose a word to pacify them, but the
 mention of the law made it every one’s con-
 cern in a moment.——‘ Silence, Gentlemen
 ‘ (said the treasurer, raising slowly his august
 ‘ bulk, and striking his hand upon the table)
 ‘ Silence, I say, and let me hear no more of
 ‘ this brawling. Mr. cook! Mr. apothecary,
 ‘ what do you both mean? to discover the se-
 ‘ crets of our society, and to blow us all up at
 ‘ once? You both heard me say, that every
 ‘ thing which was wrong should be adjusted!
 ‘ could you not wait for that, without falling
 ‘ into this indecent, this unprofitable wrangle?
 ‘ As for you, Mr. secretary, the leaven of your
 ‘ profession will break out; it is sufficient to in-
 ‘ fect the whole mass! Is this your promise,
 ‘ your oath? To follow your business, and do
 ‘ as you are ordered quietly and implicitly,
 ‘ without meddling any farther, or perplexing
 ‘ us with the tricks of your former trade? But
 ‘ it was in vain to expect it. A lawyer can as
 ‘ well live without food, as without fomenting
 ‘ quarrels, and setting his neighbours together
 ‘ by the ears: bring an action indeed! and
 ‘ so betray our mystery, to the impertinent
 ‘ remarks of counsellors, and the scoffs of
 ‘ templers and attorneys clerks. Let me hear
 ‘ one word more of the kind, and this mo-
 ‘ ment I declare off all connection, and leave
 ‘ every

‘every man to shift for himself. Our general oath of secrecy, attested under our hands, secures me from information, as it would invalidate the testimony of us all.’

With these words, he turned about to leave the room, when the steward, catching him by the breast, pulled him into his chair, and holding him down, *by main force*, addressed him thus:——‘Good God, Sir! what do you mean! to take notice of the warmth of madmen, who know not what they say! you, Mr. Treasurer, have moved in an higher sphere of life, and ought to be above such things. *You* were not raised from cleaning the shoes of a pettifogging attorney, in whose drudgery you lost your ears!—from being scullion in a nobleman’s kitchen, or servant to a mountebank, to dispense his packets to the mob; *you* were not raised, I say, from any of these stations to the rank of a gentleman, by this office, and should be above taking offence at the low-liv’d behaviour of such creatures, who know no better.’——‘Nor w— w— w— was I a full-handed ten-times b— b— b— bankrupt (interrupted the apothecary, as he would have done sooner, had rage left him power of utterance) that b— b— b— being unable to get credit any l— l— l— longer, came from cheating the p— p— p— public, to cheating the p— p— p— poor! nor a c— c— c— cast-off, worn-out p— p— p— pimping footman, whose dirty services w— w— w— were rewarded with this place.’

This made the madness general, and they were just going to proceed to blows, when
the

the porter entered hastily, and told them the committee were adjourned to their chamber, and had sent for their accompts, to sit upon them directly.

This brought them all to their senses, and made them friends in a moment. ‘Gentlemen (said the treasurer) we have all been too hot, all to blame; but let there be no more of it! let us agree among ourselves, and we may defy the world.’

Upon this a general shake of the hand put an end to the whole contest, and they proceeded to business, as if no such thing had ever happened, unanimous in their endeavours to cheat the public, and fatten on the spoils of the poor.

By that time the committee had smoked a pipe, and drank their coffee, the accompts were laid before them, over which they nodded a few moments, and then passed them, without exception. The next thing was to pay the salaries of the officers, in which distribution, it fell to my lot to be given to the chaplain.



End of the FIRST VOLUME.

